

# South West Peninsula District E-News

## October 2025



### District E-News

#### October Issue

As we head into the autumn and colder days, we bring you the October 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- October

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup>- 10.30am  
District Property  
Committee- Exeter (Velwell Rd)

Monday 6<sup>th</sup>- 10am Mission  
Area Leads Meeting-  
Liskeard

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup>- 10am District  
Executive- Zoom

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup>- 10.30am  
District Grants Committee-  
Zoom

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup>- 7.30pm  
Information on stationing  
visits meeting- Zoom

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup>- 7pm District  
Policy Committee- Zoom



#### Harvest Time

##### A Message from Revd Dr Daniel Haylett

Dear friends,

Across the District there will have been many different approaches taken to celebrating harvest in churches and communities of all sizes. Harvest festivals on allotments, services in farms and livestock markets as well as in school halls and in Methodist chapels will have taken place, or be coming up in the next few weeks. No doubt produce will have been auctioned and given and received with love and care, and support offered as we pause to give thanks.

This year the harvest thanksgiving happens in the context of extreme pressures upon rural communities. This is not new, of course, but it is a situation that is particularly intense at this time, and one that sees many living with fear and uncertain in a variety of ways. Navigating change and adaptation is a mainstay for many rural communities, but perhaps at present the rate of financial and policy change and

## Dates for Your Diary- October Cont'd

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup>- 10am  
Supervision Oversight  
Group- Exeter (Velwell Rd)

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup>- 7.30pm  
Circuit Stewards  
Consultation- Zoom

the persistence of that challenge to communities is unparalleled.

Finding ways for our churches to respond to all of this at harvest is important. How do we pray with communities and individuals who feel at their most fragile and vulnerable? How can we sing hymns that celebrate the harvest homing, when there can seem little to cheer, and much to concern?

The Arthur Rank Centre is an ecumenical charity based in Warwickshire and focusses on supporting rural Christians and Churches in their mission and ministry.

Their resources this year encourage imaginative ways for churches to host their harvest celebrations, and to nurture the place that story has in that thanksgiving. Our own Rural Support Worker, Andy Jerrard, has suggested that Churches look to "adopt a farmer" in their local area, to make contact and offer prayerful support and to listen to the challenges and joys of farming in these days.

There are many ways to reconnect with those whose lives are bound up in producing the food and produce we rely on. In our thanksgiving at this time of year, may our prayers be transformed into action and commitment as we seek to follow Christ in the places we live and serve.

A prayer from the Arthur Rank Centre:

May God go with you, go before you to nurture justice, stir compassion, and bless the communities that feed and sustain us. May God give you eyes to see the richness of creation, ears to hear the hunger of the world, and a heart open to generosity and grace. May God walk beside you in every shared meal, every hard choice, and every act of tending the earth and one another. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

<https://arthurrankcentre.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/ARC-Harvest-2025-A-Missional-Guide-for-Rural-Churches.pdf>

**With every blessing,**

**Dan**



## Visit of President and Vice-President to the District

### A Message from Jane Allin



The President of Conference, Rev. Richard Andrew and the Vice President of Conference, Matt Forsyth

will be visiting the District on the weekend of the **10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> January 2026**. The visit will be focussed on the Torbay Circuit to coincide with the 50th Anniversary of the Central Church in Torquay.

There will be a District Service on the afternoon of Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January.

More details will be available soon.

Best wishes,

**Jane Allin**

**Synod Secretary**

## Safeguarding Events and Resources

### A Message from the Regional Safeguarding Officers

Upcoming Safeguarding Events & Resources - Stay Informed and Involved

We would like to share some important updates and upcoming opportunities as part of our continued commitment to creating a safe and supportive environment for all.

### Safeguarding Sunday - 16th November 2025

Please join us for Safeguarding Sunday on 16th November 2025 - a dedicated time to reflect, pray, and recommit ourselves to safeguarding within our church and wider community. This day provides an opportunity to raise awareness and highlight the importance of protecting the vulnerable among us.

Read more on Thirtyone:eight website: [Safeguarding Sunday](#)

The 2025 Communications pack has been launched: [Safeguarding Sunday Communications Pack 202](#)

### Safeguarding Restructure - Important Updates

As many of you are aware we are currently undergoing a restructuring of our safeguarding practices to ensure they remain robust, responsive, and reflective of best practices. More details on these changes will be shared in the coming weeks, and we welcome your prayers and support during this period of transition.

#### **Please also note our new email address and mobile phone numbers:**

Regional Officer for Safeguarding Chrissie Slaney [slaneyc@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:slaneyc@methodistchurch.org.uk)

Mobile telephone number **07799 900481**

Regional Officer for Safeguarding Andrew Vaughan [vaughana@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:vaughana@methodistchurch.org.uk)

Mobile telephone number **07972 102179**

We encourage everyone to engage with these resources and events as we continue to build a culture of safety, awareness, and compassion.

**Chrissie Slaney and Andrew Vaughan**

**Regional Officers for Safeguarding (ROS)**

## Exciting Free Arts Installation

Oct, Nov, Dec '25

across Devon and Cornwall



**Let's Face It** will be a powerful exhibition and a series of immersive experiences designed to explore the diverse journeys and faces of homelessness and house insecurity. Using a variety of arts medium, the installations will endeavour to challenge prejudice and dismantle stereotypes. As a **Justice Seeking District**, we want to give opportunity for those of faith and of none, to explore and consider what our response is to these issues. The installation will include potential solutions and hopeful stories.





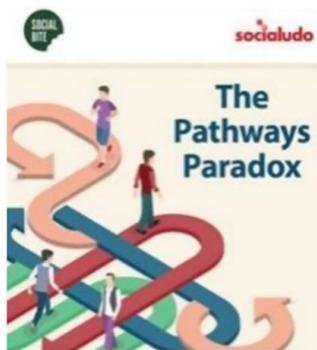
## Get it in your diary – not to be missed!

All age interactive Arts installation will be journeying across the district in 5 areas across the South West.

- 25-30 October Helston Methodist Church
- 1-6 November Truro Methodist Church (Serious game pm 6.11.15)
- 8-13 November The Mint Methodist Church, Exeter
- 22-27 November Torbay (Location TBC)
- 29 -4 December Sherwell United, Plymouth (Serious game 4.12.25)

At 7.30pm, each venue will have a **Saturday launch night**, featuring Rhys Wynn Jones AKA **The Night Pianist**. This concert will be an opportunity for you to hear his story and listen to some of his amazing new album. The exciting **immersive arts installation** will remain in the location for the rest of the week for you to visit and engage with. Elements will include:-

**Exhibition of photos, audio sound bites, monologues, music and poetry, space to take a moment to reflect, hopeful space – opportunity to learn about charities and organisations that support and help.**



Each venue will also host a **free interactive serious games evening (dates TBC)** called **The Pathways Paradox**; a great way to grapple with some of the difficulties of homelessness in a non-threatening but thought provoking way. Pathways Paradox has been co-developed with Social Bite and successfully used to support understanding, empathy, and practical action on homelessness. **An evening you won't forget!**

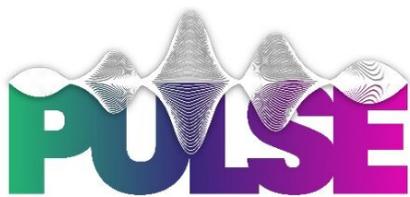
For more info or if you would like to be involved, contact **Helen Pearce:- 07450989571**



For more information visit the Lets face it! page on the District Website by clicking [here](#) .

**Helen Pearce**

**Social Justice Officer**



The Missional Heartbeat of the  
District

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## *What's happening around the District*

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### *Ashburton Methodist Church Teignbridge Circuit*

At South Dartmoor Community College (not a Christian foundation), we have run a chaplaincy for more than 10 years. It started when church leaders in the area were invited to be present in the college library at the start of the autumn term following the sudden, unexpected death of a teacher towards the end of the summer holidays. What then developed was a presence in the college every Thursday morning during term time, when pupils were signposted/referred to us for one-to-one conversation and pastoral support. This was originally run ecumenically but due to staff changes is now a Methodist operation, with myself and a local lay person sharing the duty. From this presence has emerged an invitation to speak at the annual college carol service, and from the end of last year a request from the Religious Studies staff both to support their GCSE RS class and to set up a Christian Union. So far, I have invited folk to join me in sharing in RS lessons on 3 occasions: the eco-church group from the Mint in Exeter (why the environment is important to Christians); Darren Middleton (the church, mission and evangelism); and Nancy Day and Ann Lindsay (the importance of the World Church), whilst the local curate has also been in. Our Family Worker (part-time employed by the local Methodist and Anglican Mission Community) has now started a Christian Union.

**Contact for this piece of work: Rev'd Kevin Hooke**

### *Bere Alston United Church*

is situated in a very rural isolated peninsula on the Devon/Cornwall border.

#### **Games and Craft Youth Club**

The Games and Craft Youth Club is a recently established initiative aimed at providing young people with a safe and supportive environment to develop their skills, build meaningful relationships, and engage in positive activities. Located in the Upper Room in Bere Alston United Church, the club is accessible to all youth in the village, offering a range of creative and sports activities designed to cater to diverse interests and needs. This club is developing in response to a perceived lack of provision in the village for a certain group of young people. Initially catering for our Young Church children, we started small and have grown steadily. Our goal is to address the challenges faced by young people today, such as social isolation, lack of extracurricular opportunities, and limited access to mentorship and guidance. (as well as having loads of fun along the way)

The primary objectives of the Games and Craft Youth Club are:

To provide a safe and supportive environment for young people to gather and engage in positive activities.

To offer a diverse range of programmes and services that cater to the interests and needs of all youth in the community.

To foster a sense of belonging and community among young people.

We cater for a wide age range, bridging that gap between primary and secondary schools.

Each session ends with a 5-10 minute 'God slot' where we introduce Jesus to our largely unchurched young people in a gentle and fun way followed by some crazy, fun games.

The Club represents a significant investment in the future of young people in our community. By providing a safe, supportive, and enriching environment, the club helps young people develop the skills, confidence, and connections they need to thrive.

*And at the other end of the age scale we have:*

### **Emmaus**

We invited a group of people from the village, who we knew had limited opportunities to socialise, to lunch after church on Sundays. We advertised this as a time of fellowship where we would discuss some of the Christian answers to real life issues each week.

One subject each week. Topics for discussion were, Equality, Saying Thank you, Lament, Freedom, Loneliness, Suffering, Prayer, Love and Death. Pretty hefty subjects! Over our shared meal we would discuss how the world views that week's subject and then we would give our Christian perspective. Everyone was able to contribute and say what they felt. No judgements were made. It proved very popular, so much so that we repeated the course with a whole lot of new subjects, many chosen by our guests. A great time spent together, sharing and laughing and sometimes a tear or two.

### **Hope Cottage**

Next door to our church was a very small cottage with a garden. A few years ago we decided to purchase this property to expand our children's work. We made this decision in faith as we didn't have any budget at the time! We then redeveloped this into a café for the community. It is run by volunteers from the church and the community working together. It has proved to be extremely popular and has become the social centre of the village. It is lovely to see friendships and relationships formed over coffee, cake and a panini flourishing into regular meet ups and support groups.

### **Food Bank**

Hope Cottage is also the centre from which we run our food bank. This is run in partnership with our Anglican friends. Unfortunately there is a great need in our village but it is being met by the church and it has proved to be very successful in supporting people in these challenging times. Donations come in from the community to help those in our community.

### **Make Lunch**

Another solution to food poverty is our Make Lunch scheme where we invite families into church during the school holidays for a hot meal, fun and games and crafts for the children, and fellowship for the parents. Again this has proved to be very successful and we have many regulars who come week after week. So much so that in the near future, we are thinking of expanding this into a Make Lunch Church. Much prayer needed!

## SIDMOUTH METHODIST CHURCH

Exeter Coast & Country  
Circuit

### Coffee and Chat

This weekly session does exactly what it says on the tin, although – to be precise - there is the option of tea or cold drinks and a good selection of biscuits on offer as well!



Members of the Church, along with our minister Steve most weeks, open up the Church Hall, welcoming regulars and visitors, plus a number of tourists due to our position right on the High Street in the popular seaside resort of Sidmouth. Often, the session simply offers the opportunity for people to meet together and be sociable but, at others, specific needs and issues are identified and supported as appropriate. Certainly, folks appreciate the opportunity to get out of their home and come together in a warm and welcoming atmosphere. In addition, through the winter, the hall also offers a 'warm space' supporting other similar initiatives throughout the town.

### *Fore Street Methodist Church*

(FSMC) have been holding open air community hymn singing services outside our church on the harbour front on 1st and 3rd Sunday evenings from June -September. (If wet in the church). We invite other fellowships to join with us in this outreach and encourage visitors to sing with us some of their favourite hymns and in between we share the gospel. We gather by the fishermen's lodge opposite our chapel at 6.30pm and conclude at 7.30pm. As we celebrated the Harvest of the sea on Sunday 20th July we held the community hymn singing inside the decorated chapel that evening with the invited St.Ives Male Voice Praise Choir.



**Deacon Ruth Richey**

**Mission Area Lead**

# Church Action on Poverty Sunday

## Sharing our Dreams

What are your dreams for a world free from poverty? How does your church make tackling poverty part of its mission?

On Church Action on Poverty Sunday, give, act and pray with others – together we can end UK poverty.

This pack includes a range of worship resources and fundraising ideas to help you take part on 19 October 2025.

[Learn More](#)

**Helen Pearce**

**Social Justice Officer**



## Positive Working Together

### A Message from Sharon Rowe

Positive Working Together includes 3 one-day training courses: Growing through Change and Conflict; Bullying and Harassing Behaviour; Scripture, Spirituality and Conflict

Growing through Change & Conflict	Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> October 2025 9.30am to 4pm	<a href="https://GtCC141025.eventbrite.co.uk">https:// GtCC141025.eventbrite.co.uk</a>
Responding to Bullying & Harassment	Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December 2025 9.30am to 4pm	<a href="https://GtCC141025.eventbrite.co.uk">https:// GtCC141025.eventbrite.co.uk</a>
Growing through Change & Conflict	Mon 26 <sup>th</sup> and Tue 27 <sup>th</sup> January 2026, 7pm to 9.30pm	<a href="https://GtCC141025.eventbrite.co.uk">https:// GtCC141025.eventbrite.co.uk</a>
Scripture, Spirituality and Conflict	Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> March 2026 9.30am to 4pm	<a href="https://SSC090326.eventbrite.co.uk">https:// SSC090326.eventbrite.co.uk</a>
Responding to Bullying & Harassment	Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> June 2026 9.30am to 4pm	<a href="https://BH090626.eventbrite.co.uk">https:// BH090626.eventbrite.co.uk</a>

PWT Eventbrite Collection:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/positive-working-together-818889>

### Sharon Rowe

**Learning & Development Officer | The Connexional Team**

**Phone: 07791 425501 | Mobile: 07791425501**

## Think Faith Conference

### A Message from Sharon Rowe



For more information and tickets Click [Here](#)

**Sharon Rowe**

**Learning & Development Officer | The Connexional Team**

**Phone: 07791 425501 | Mobile: 07791425501**

## Think Faith Conference

### A Message from The Connexional Team

#### Showing 'After the Flood': Thinking well about yourself and attendees

Are you considering showing the film 'After the Flood: The church, slavery and reconciliation' in your church or context?

This evening will be an opportunity to consider how you and others might feel about the film. We will also share tips on how to sensitively support those who attend, across a range of reactions and emotions, to enable reflection on the film content and engage in conversations. Led by Jenna Thorne, Revd Carla Quenet and Stuart Watkin from the Learning Network.

[Showing 'After the Flood': Thinking well about yourself and attendees Registration, Mon 13 Oct 2025 at 19:00 | Eventbrite](#)

Please also share this with your colleagues and within your networks,

If you have any questions, please do let us know.

With best wishes

#### **Kim Medford-Vassell**

JDS Programme Coordinator | The Connexional Team

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