



FROM THE CHAIR

The Revd Dr David A. Hull

Dear Friends,

By the time this issue of MET Connexion reaches you, the season of new year Covenant Services will be upon us once again. An extract from the Covenant Prayer is printed on page 20. The words are always challenging to pray. I often speak to people who question whether they can truly pray the prayer entirely wholeheartedly and unreservedly. I encourage them to use the words as an expression of their aspiration - setting out the commitment they long to be able to make to the Lord, even if they feel they have some way to go in making it.

My mind goes back to our family holiday over the summer. We had a wonderful time in Bude, on the Cornish coast. I surprised myself by swimming in the sea three times! It was all very safe. The lifeguards were there. They had put out flags to show where to swim. They were watching the water.

The water was quite rough at times with the waves crashing, so I decided to swim out beyond them to calmer waters, and it was beautiful. There were a few times, though, that I realised I couldn't easily get to where I wanted to be. I was out of my depth and when the water flowed back out to sea before the next wave came in, I couldn't easily swim against it. I realised I could either fight against it, certain I would have made it back to shore but wouldn't have enjoyed it nearly as much, or I could just enjoy the swim and allow the waves eventually to bring me back. That's what I did, and I loved it!

I knew I was safe; I knew someone had looked at the conditions and worked out I was going to be ok; I knew I was being watched. All I had to do was surrender and allow myself to be carried. The challenge of the Covenant Service each year is,

as best we can, to surrender all to the Lord, with a prayer that he will help us to surrender all the more in the coming days and months.

When I am on the Cornish coast, I often think about my friend David White who sadly died of pneumonia, brought on by Covid-19, on 16 December 2021. He loved the sea and the rhythms of grace of which the turning tides reminded him. He was a giant of a man in many respects and, although his CV read like a 'Who's Who' of charismatic evangelical leadership in the Church of England - St Michael's le Belfrey, York; Holy Trinity, St Austell; and St Andrew's Chorleywood, to name three of the churches he served - he was a humble man. He loved the legacy of the Wesley brothers and was a great support to me in ministry. I am therefore delighted that we are able to carry an article he wrote for us some time ago in this issue of MET Connexion. It is an excellent introduction to our theme of Offering Christ, holding a celebration of our heritage together with our call to evangelism, something that David himself embodied richly in his own ministry.

In this mailing, you will have received information about renewing your partnership with MET for a further year. We are so grateful for all your support and I do hope that our paths will cross in the coming year at one of our events.

Wishing you the Lord's richest blessing throughout the year ahead and rejoicing in our partnership in the gospel,

David