



EDITORIAL

Anne Middleton

This is the first of a special two-part edition which aims to get us thinking about and discussing important topics. When I commissioned the articles for this edition and people discovered that it was a two-parter, of course everyone wanted to write for the Spring edition! So, many thanks to all the contributors for agreeing (with a little encouragement!) to take on the task of writing for the first part!

MET is seeking to provide resources to encourage people of all ages across the Connexion, to discuss topics that are key to the Christian life. This two-part edition of MET Connexion is the first step, but the project will continue through a variety of other formats, including video resources for young people.

This edition of MET Connexion is packed with the first half of our key topics. Loraine Mellor challenges us to play our part in the mission of the church. Jill Baker teaches us about engaging with the rhythms of discipleship. Andy Frost urges us to make sharing Jesus a priority and not an added extra. Graham Horsley explores what it means to be church in the 21st Century and Ed Mackenzie guides us in our interaction with the living and active word of God. Ian Henderson has written on the largely unspoken, though prevalent, subject of pornography, with a view to encouraging us as a church to speak about and be equipped to support people with such an addiction. And, finally, Tim Woolley has thoughtfully tackled the issue which is probably the most difficult subject for the Methodist Church at present - Marriage and Relationships.

This edition also sees the third and final of Howard Mellor's wonderful Bible Studies on Grace. The depth of content has been inspiring and I know from feed-back that readers have found them to be extremely helpful. MET hopes to work with Howard to produce a new resource which will include the set of three Bible Studies. On the subject of MET's Bible Study resources, rather than the usual Resource Reviews, for these two editions, I have decided to feature some of MET's resources. Our Development Worker, Paul Wilson takes these with him on his journeys around the Connexion and for this edition, he has helpfully put together a summary of the Bible Studies available.

Finally, I just want to thank those who have shared their testimonies for the Good News section. I have been inspired by the honesty and vulnerability shown by several of the contributors and am grateful for their courage in sharing their stories. I hope that you find this edition helpful and pray that, as a church, we will strive to tackle the difficult issues in love. I also pray that we will get better at sharing our stories - even the painful and less glamorous ones - to encourage each other as we live out our stories in the light of His story...

The Editor welcomes articles and Good News stories for future issues. The Spring edition will continue the special focus on evangelical perspectives on a range of issues; authors for these have already been approached. The deadline for submission is 19 February but items can be submitted at any time to be included in future editions. Please do let the editor know well in advance if you would like to submit an article for a specific issue, to ensure space is reserved, as the Editor commissions articles at the beginning of the process. To submit or to ask permission to reproduce anything, please email: editor@methodistevangelicals.org.uk

FEATURE ARTICLES

3. **WHAT'S OUR MISSION?**
By Loraine Mellor
6. **THE RHYTHM OF DISCIPLESHIP**
By Jill Baker
8. **SHARING JESUS - NOT AN ADDED EXTRA**
By Andy Frost
10. **WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE CHURCH?**
By Graham Horsley
12. **HANDLING SCRIPTURE WELL**
By Ed Mackenzie
14. **PORNOGRAPHY - THE NAKED TRUTH**
By Ian Henderson
18. **A LIFELONG ENCOUNTER**
By Tim Woolley

REGULARS

16. **GOOD NEWS STORIES**
20. **RESOURCE REVIEWS**
22. **FROM THE DEVELOPMENT WORKER**
24. **BIBLE STUDY** By Howard Mellor
29. **PRAYING ALWAYS**
31. **FROM THE CHAIR**

CREDITS

Editor: Anne Middleton
Designed by:
danielwatsondesign.co.uk
Printed by: cliffe-enterprise.com

PHOTO CREDITS

Cover: © Detail from the 'Five-a-Day' postcard (from the President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference, 2017-2018), Methodist Publishing / TMCP; page 2: © Anne Middleton; pages 3-5: © Anne Middleton / Alex Baker Photography / TMCP; pages 6-7: © Jill Baker; pages 8-9: © SJI / Great Commission; pages 10-11: © Graham Horsley; pages 12-13: © Ed Mackenzie; pages 14-15: © Naked Truth / Ian Henderson; pages 16-17: © Frances Ballantyne / Mark Lawrence; pages 18-19: © Tim Woolley; pages 20-21: © Paul Wilson; Jacqui Parkinson; SJI; page 22: © Paul Wilson; page 23: © Joanna Williamson; pages 25-26: © Ruth Field / Howard Mellor; page 28: © Cliff College; page 31: © David Hull; Back Cover: © Jacqui Parkinson.