

# REPORT FROM MET AGM

The AGM was held at Cliff College on the Bank Holiday Monday of the Festival weekend and was attended by over forty people.

## UPDATE FROM CLIFF

The Principal of Cliff College, the Revd Ashley Cooper, shared an update from the college. He said that as a college, Cliff is exploring the future, but also looking at where it has come from, recognising that some of its original DNA has been lost. They are sensing that God is re-focussing them as a centre for Evangelism and Mission - thus holding on to the original vision of the college and developing it further. They are launching a gap year for 2018-19 for young people aged 18-30, for a 'year at Cliff' experience - called 'YES YOU CAN!'

The Chair outlined that the Donald English Young Scholars Fund [DEYSF] was available to support applicants to the YES YOU CAN! gap year at Cliff College, with a grant of up to £500 per person.

## DEVELOPMENT WORKER'S REPORT

Paul Wilson thanked the AGM for the support for him and his wife Karen over the last six years, as he has sought to fulfil the vision of MET as a renewal movement which is Bible-based and prayer-focussed. He had very much appreciated the opportunity to be released into a teaching ministry in the Word and the Spirit. Paul expressed his thanks for the opportunities, hospitality and rich blessings he had received from his role in MET and assured us of his continued prayers for God's blessing on the work of MET and the Methodist Church.

It is recognised that Paul has substantially raised the profile of MET during his time in this role as Development Worker, and for that we are most grateful. Plans are in place for a phased end to Paul's role as Development Worker during September and October.

A recruitment process is being embarked upon as we advertise this role. We are looking at employing

either a full-time worker or two part-time workers as a job share.

## NOMINATIONS

Prayer Conference: The Revd Kevin Jones; January 2019 - December 2021

Diaconal Support: Deacon Julie Morton; January 2019 - December 2021

MET Connexion Editor: Vacant 1 January 2019

These were all agreed.

## WEBSITE

A bright new contemporary website is now available, following much work behind the scenes over the last few months by Paul and Marian. It is nearly complete; transferring the resources over is one of the final tasks that need to be carried out.

## PRIVACY POLICY

GDPR had been adhered to - we had conducted a data review, ensured that we are compliant with the new GDPR legislation and that a Privacy Policy was now available on the website.

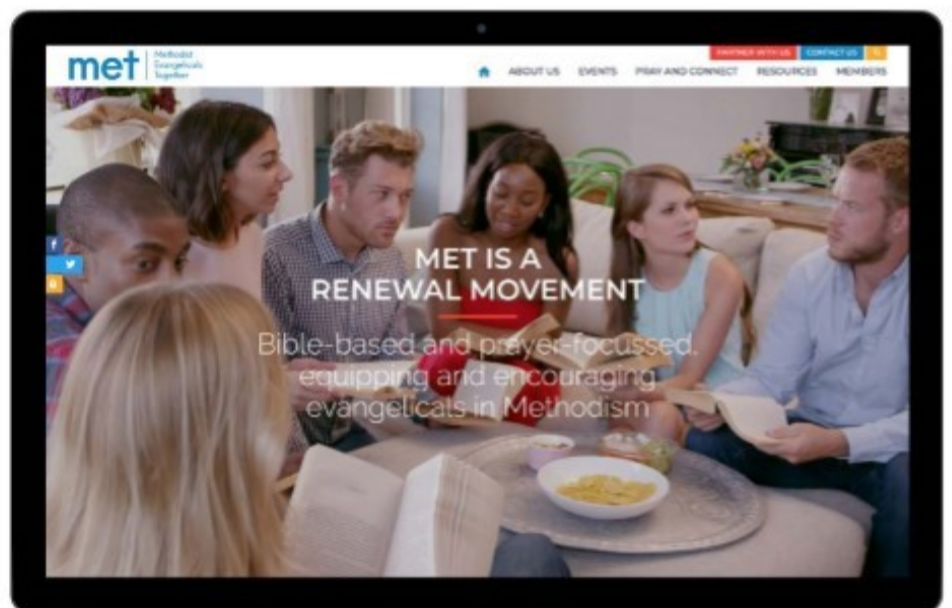
## MARRIAGE AND HUMAN SEXUALITY

The Chair updated the AGM with the

journey to date: The decision for MET to follow the stance of biblical teaching had been fully endorsed.

MET have produced a statement which was sent to the Connexional Task Group and is also available on the MET website. The Connexional Task Group has been given permission to delay bringing their full report on Marriage and Human Relationships to Conference in 2018 and instead have produced an interim report to be discussed in small groups at Conference. The Task Group are hoping to present their full report to Conference in 2019, with a view to it being accepted by the 2020 Conference. This means a suspension of the normal two-year consultation process and the Task Group are asking for this to be granted. This issue is of concern to the MET Executive as it means inevitably that debates will be restricted and result in a lack of full consultation amongst local churches and in circuits. MET suggested that MET people speak to their Conference reps in their Districts in order to maintain the two-year consultation process. The executive committee will circulate a response to the interim report as a briefing paper to MET partners by email prior to Conference.

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# SW CONFERENCE REPORT

The key speaker was the Revd Paul Smith, who chose to expound on the subject 'The Lamb of God'. It was, as might be expected from Paul, a masterly exposition. His four headings were: 'Where is the Lamb?', 'Behold the Lamb', 'Like a Lamb' and 'Worthy is the Lamb'. I admit that I approached the conference cautiously - just how appropriate in the twenty first century is the image of a sacrificial lamb as a vehicle for understanding the wonder of the Christian faith? Paul's insight into both Old and New Testament passages on this topic left no room for doubt. It

is in the context of the ancient Jewish sacrificial system that this title of Christ can be richly understood, informing our faith perspectives and enriching our understanding. Is it an image that I would use evangelistically? Certainly not, but as believers search deeper for the meaning and significance of the incarnation, Paul showed it to be a richly rewarding study.

Put into the context of a comfortable hotel with sea views and outstanding service, lively and appropriate worship and times for quiet prayer, opportunities to share thoughts and insights and to spend time with

friends old and new I would recommend the conference to all our members.

Interestingly, one phrase stuck indelibly in my mind (from Simon Beresford, Director of Fundraising, 'All We Can'): 'There is no them and us. There are only us.' This is well worth thinking about!

God bless you and your valuable work,

*The Revd Doreen Sparey-Delacassa  
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