



# FROM THE CHAIR

*The Revd David A. Hull*

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Dear Friends,

Happy New Year!

I begin with a welcome and will end with a goodbye. It is a delight to be able to welcome Derek Balsdon as our new Development Worker. He has taken up post in a part-time capacity for this Connexional year and will become full-time in September. We formally recognised his appointment at a welcome and commissioning service as part of our Prayer Conference in November and we continue to be very grateful to all those whose generous gifts continue to make the appointment possible. If there are ways in which Derek can be of service to your Church or Circuit, please do make contact.

Derek has been hard at work since taking up this new appointment, not least in co-ordinating the production of our new 'Remaining Faithful' leaflet which encourages the Methodist Church to remain faithful to the traditional, biblical definition of marriage within our current debates. It is included within this mailing. If you could make use of further copies, please do contact us and we will be glad to send them to you. We very much hope that this new leaflet will both encourage our partners to contribute to the current debates, and also be distributed widely across the Connexion. We are currently working on an additional resource: a study and discussion guide which we hope will be available in the Spring.

A growing number of people have been getting in touch with me to express serious concern over the perceived direction of travel within the Methodist Church in this country and have suggested that, should the Conference change our definition of marriage, they fear they will be placed in an untenable situation within the denomination. If you share the strength of these concerns and feel that a change of definition may leave you in a similar position, I would be very grateful if you would write to me as soon as possible (even if you have written before) by email: [chair@methodistevangelicals.org.uk](mailto:chair@methodistevangelicals.org.uk) or via our Administrator whose address is on the back cover of this magazine. This will help us to gauge the strength of feeling and to offer support.

MET will continue to urge the Methodist Church to remain faithful to traditional, biblical teaching. Whilst these debates around marriage have entailed a considerable amount of work for members of our Executive Committee, we have also been careful to sustain all our other areas of work. A new set of youth resources are in production, we have launched initiatives to promote prayer across the Connexion, our preaching, prayer and ministry conferences are highlights of the year, and conversations about how to promote evangelism continue. Of course, the real work of MET is carried out day in, day out by our partners who seek to be faithful in worship, witness and ministry wherever the Lord has placed us. We have just celebrated again the birth of the world's true King. Whatever the debates of the day, and whatever direction they take, we rejoice that Jesus is Lord.



I promised to end with a goodbye. Earlier in this issue of MET Connexion, Anne Middleton has stated that this is her last edition as editor. Throughout her years of service in this role, Anne has brought a creative flair to the magazine. We have been very grateful for all that she has done and, as she comes to the end of this role and moves into new ministry opportunities with her family, we pray for the Lord's blessing upon them all.

Rejoicing in our partnership in the gospel,

*David*