

# FROM THE DEVELOPMENT WORKER

*The Revd Derek Balsdon*

Our lives continue to be affected by the COVID-19 pandemic in so many different ways. I am grateful to God and to you for being able to continue serving MET as the Development Worker, especially for your support through prayer, giving, and participation in MET events. My title, 'Development Worker,' has certainly been applicable over the past year as we have had to develop different ways of working, with such an increase of things now happening online. Several people have been able to join online events which would not have been possible if we had been physically meeting. With our day conferences, 'Digging for Treasure' and 'Speak, Lord,' the speakers pre-recorded their sessions, and we then played their videos on the day. We have now uploaded the videos onto the MET website and YouTube channel so that more people can benefit from this inspiring teaching. To watch them go to [methodistevangelicals.org.uk/videos](http://methodistevangelicals.org.uk/videos) or [methodistevangelicals.org.uk/youtube](http://methodistevangelicals.org.uk/youtube)

One thing that has become evident is that, despite this pandemic, God is still mightily at work, and that his Spirit can flow through our online gatherings. He is continuing to speak and minister to us, his servants. Our Digging for Treasure 2020 theme was 'Word and Spirit: Authority and Power', and in one of the pre-recorded videos, the Revd Catherine Hutton included prayer for us to be filled afresh with the Holy Spirit. Through emails a number of people have testified to experiencing a fresh anointing of God's Spirit, including one who has written 'that evening, out of the blue, I

was overcome by the presence and love of the Lord! It was like falling in love with Jesus all over again! And to a greater, or sometimes lesser, extent that remains with me.' The 'Speak, Lord' day included 'listening to the Lord' exercises, and many participants heard the Lord speaking to them, not audibly, but through the Bible and through words that came into their minds. During the MET Prayer Meetings, participants have also received verses, words and pictures from the Lord. The theme of this MET Connexion is 'Speak, Lord,' which comes from Eli instructing Samuel to respond to the Lord's voice with 'Speak, Lord, your servant is listening' (1 Samuel 3:9). The 'Speak, Lord' videos, with their teaching and listening exercises, can help us to hear more clearly from the Lord.

For a significant number of people, the MET online meetings have been a spiritual lifeline. In some places local churches and circuits have not offered much in the way of online Bible studies or prayer meetings, so people have been grateful for what MET has offered. Even before this pandemic, some evangelicals felt quite isolated in their church and circuit, and for them, our online meetings have provided an enriching opportunity to share fellowship and pray with like-minded people. Whenever we get to post COVID-19 we will need to consider MET's ongoing online ministry.

Within MET we are aware that a significant minority of our MET partners are not on the internet, so are not able to participate in our online meetings. Post

COVID-19 MET will resume face to face events. In the meantime, you may like to consider purchasing MET books to assist your devotion and study. We do have over 20 different MET books available. To find out more about them, please phone me, and then you can place an order by telephone or by post. MET books are priced between £4 and £6 each (+ p&p), with discounts for multiple purchases. With Lent approaching, one appropriate book is 'Looking at the cross through an Old Testament lens' by the Revd Paul Smith. If you are on the internet, but have not yet provided us with your email address, we would be pleased to receive it so that we can send out occasional email updates, please email Marian at [admin@methodistevangelicals.org.uk](mailto:admin@methodistevangelicals.org.uk)

2021 is going to be a challenging year for the Methodist Church in Britain owing to the God In Love Unites Us report and resolutions coming before most of the spring District Synods and to the Conference. May we hear the Lord speaking, guiding, strengthening and building us up in our faith. May our prayer be 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.'

Even though I have not been travelling for MET, I have had a few local opportunities to preach and share holy communion. I am willing to make provisional bookings for preaching and teaching across the Connexion, even if at a later stage they have to be cancelled, postponed or moved online. I am also happy to preach within an online service either live or pre-recorded. I will continue to be involved with the weekly prayer meetings and Bible studies. These continue to provide opportunities for us to speak to our Lord, and to hear him speaking to us.

Yours in Christ Jesus,

**Derek**

