



# GOOD NEWS STORIES

## INTRODUCING ROZ ADDINGTON, A NEW MEMBER OF THE MET TEAM!



*ROZ TAKES UP THE MANTLE OF PRAYER SECRETARY FOR MET AND SHARES SOMETHING OF HER JOURNEY SO FAR.*

I trained as a teacher, but my life changed quite dramatically when God called me to go to Cliff College (1989-1990). It was while I was there that I became aware of the importance of prayer. I became more acutely aware of this whilst serving on the Rob Frost Seed Team programme for two years and subsequently in Poland for 7 years. It was through Rob Frost that I went to Poland, to work with the Methodist Church as a missionary and a teacher of English as a foreign language in the Methodist English Language College.

On returning from Poland, I became youth and children's worker in the Skipton and Grassington Circuit for one year before getting married to Brian in 2001 and moving to Bedford. I'm not in paid employment, but I am very involved with the church at Cardington and within the circuit. I have been a circuit steward; I am involved with plan making, Methodist Women in Britain, running a coffee morning and a craft club where I sometimes lead workshops. I continue preaching, which I have now been doing for 28 years and, up until September, I was running a children's club. In my spare time I make greetings cards and do other craft work.

Prayer excites me and I am totally passionate about it. The post of being MET's Prayer Secretary both thrills and terrifies me, but I feel honoured to be asked. I realise it is a huge responsibility, but experience has taught me that where God calls, he also equips, so I know he will guide and lead me.

## WALK, PRAY, TALK *The Evangelical Alliance*

Be inspired to connect with God and your friends as together you step out in prayer for your community.

Walk, Pray, Talk is a five-part resource produced by the Evangelical Alliance that will help you to explore the connection between the place you inhabit in the everyday, your Christian faith and your God-given purpose as you follow Jesus into his world.

Through each of the five sessions you will explore prayer through themes of being people of God, present to God and people, participation, and caring for a place.

We really want to encourage you to get out and about praying for your local community. We believe you will thrive as God's people, together, in your places, in a new way.

For more information, visit [eauk.org](http://eauk.org)



## A VIRTUAL RECEPTION INTO FULL CONNEXION



*The Revd Phil Dixon*

It was probably sometime during May when it was becoming clear that the 'Reception into Full Methodist

Connexion' and ordination, that we probationary ministers had worked so hard for, and looked forward to, was not going to happen. For all of us it was a great feeling of disappointment and loss. However, in the context of the unprecedented situation the loss of life and everyone's plans being turned upside down, it was completely understandable.

For me personally, to be received into Full Connexion online from my own home did not diminish the significance of the event.

It was an amazing privilege, and an emotional occasion that I will never forget: to have my fellow ministers, along with the laity of the church that had supported me during my candidature and who had assisted me in my discernment of God's calling, find me fully acceptable and worthy to be received as a Presbyterian into the Methodist Church. Of course, it was not just a personal event, as each candidate appeared on screen and gave their affirmation. Even though we were physically distanced, we were all joined together in a completely unique way that only the Holy Spirit can achieve.

Furthermore, the Presidential theme for this year, 'The best of all is, God is with us', applied directly to the Reception into Full Connexion on the evening of Saturday 27 June. God was with each one of us, spread throughout the country in our own homes, watching or taking part.

Our ordinations are planned to take place physically on 18 April 2021 at Methodist Central Hall, Westminster. So we have another hugely significant event to look forward to. That is two, very good news stories, instead of one!



## PRECIOUS FINDS DURING LOCKDOWN

*Sarah Sim*

During lockdown, I have started clearing out my late father's study. Dad died almost five years ago. I have found some very precious things including the Bible that was presented to my dad in April 1949 when he was recognised as a fully accredited Local Preacher. Later the same year, my father went to Cliff College and then went on to train as a Methodist Minister. I know that my dad loved his time at 'Cliff'. In the front of my dad's Bible is the text 'Do the work of an evangelist'. My dad was certainly faithful to his calling, as many people could testify.

I was doubly blessed when I realised that I was accredited as a Local Preacher exactly 70 years after my dad was! I pray that I may be as faithful to the Lord as he was.

Also ... if it had not been for lockdown, I may not have discovered and joined the MET prayer meeting that meets on Zoom on a Sunday evening.

## THE GLORY OF THE GOSPEL

*The Revd Janet M. Knowles-Berry*



'Lockdown!' - 'Masking!' - 'The R Number!' are words and phrases which have become familiar 'new norms' by which we live.

Yet, whilst 'lockdown' is not a new word, to the majority of able-bodied citizens worldwide, it has not previously meant personal confinement.

Then, we have the word 'masking' which has brought into vogue a new way to describe mask wearing.

Lastly, 'The R Number' which keeps an eye on the varying levels of infection.

I welcome these safeguards, they are essential to overcoming the Covid-19 pandemic even though, in exchange for our health, they ransom our freedom.

However, amidst it all, I have been grateful to join MET's 'lockdown' Zoom meetings, led by the Revd's David Hull and Derek Balsdon. Here, like-minded Christian folk, being thankful that God is steadfast, join together in prayerful fellowship and rejoice in the gospel of Jesus.

For, even though we are living with 'lockdown', 'masking' and 'The R Number', the gospel of Jesus tells us of a freedom that is not 'locked down', is not 'masked', but is a living revelation which is not 'varying', but an eternal surety. For, through his death and resurrection, our Lord Jesus paid the price of our spiritual ransom with his own saving 'R' number of 'R' for redemption; graciously freeing us from the lockdown of sin and saving us unto eternal salvation.

## LICC RESOURCES

*The Revd Phil Clarke*

London Institute for Contemporary Christianity (LICC) continue to expand their offer of resources for mission with their Gateway Seven Series of Bible studies now covering Exodus, Ruth, Proverbs, Ezekiel, Mark, 1 Peter and Revelation. These combine evangelical scholarship, effective application and attractive presentation and are part of a growing tool kit for engagement with contemporary society both in terms of broad societal issues and personal faith.

LICC sprang out of the vision of John Stott decades ago for deep discipleship and relevant witness. Under Mark Greene and an expanding panoply of younger scholars and leaders, it confronts issues of contemporary culture in an accessible style. Printed materials are backed up by a range of on line resources and conferences from which many Methodist churches, circuits, districts and their leaders benefit.

