



EDITORIAL

Marian Izzard

Welcome to the summer edition of MET Connexion! The theme that we have chosen for this edition is 'Hope in Hard Times'. We thought that it was only right and fitting to focus this issue on some of the positives and the opportunities that have emerged and have been discovered by individuals, health workers, organizations and churches as a result of being in lockdown during COVID-19.

Andrew Ollerton, ordained minister and author of The Bible Course considers how lockdown is changing discipleship for good.

Nick Fletcher, newly elected MP for Don Valley, shares insights from his first few months in office from surprise election to parliament to life in lockdown. Georgina Coster from the Christian Medical Fellowship is a staff nurse on an emergency surgery unit and shares the challenges and opportunities of working in the NHS with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Marianne Clough, National PR Manager for Christians Against Poverty (CAP) shares how the charity is coping with extreme need in these extraordinary times and how God is providing and opening up opportunities.

Pete Phillips, Centre for Digital Theology explores the rise of the online church and how it is getting deeper into God.

Ali Johnson, the digital evangelist at Cliff, helps us to think about reaching out during the pandemic and the opportunities that this presents going forward in our mission - post lockdown.

Our Bible Study is by Kath Jones, Methodist Minister in Horsham, Sussex and reflects on some lessons from Philippians 1, written by Paul from prison - rejoicing in the progress, proclamation and power of faith.

We also feature two young people - Liam Hathway and Georgia Jenkin - a brother and sister who have grown up in the Methodist Church but have now found their feet in their own ministries. We hear how God has been at work in shaping their lives.

We have given this edition an extra four pages to feature how some familiar faces have coped, adapted and embraced this lockdown period as an opportunity to be creative. You will find these stories on pages 16-19 'How we've been doing things differently during lockdown'.

So, there is much to encourage us with hope in these hard times and to know for sure that we have our ultimate hope in Jesus, the God of all Hope. Like everyone else, we have had to postpone our summer events such as the AGM and Liverpool 200. Where these have been rescheduled they will appear as revised dates in this magazine and also on our website.

The next edition of MET Connexion will be the autumn edition - available in early October. The theme will be on Revival and will feature many revivals of the past and our hope for a revival to come across the UK and globally. If you have any Good News stories that you would like to share on the theme of revival or anything else, please do contact me on editor@methodistevangelicals.org.uk

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By Nick Fletcher MP
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By Pete Phillips
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