



FROM THE CHAIR

The Revd Dr David A. Hull

Dear Friends,

We have prepared this edition of MET Connexion in what are now ubiquitously referred to as 'unprecedented times'. Like every family on earth, ours too has been affected. Sadly, just after Easter, Sarah's father Ray Church, died from COVID-19. Now present with the Lord, his body was laid to rest alongside other family members in a small, but beautiful open-air funeral service in a Cambridgeshire village. As some readers will know, it is a family with a remarkable history - of which I knew nothing when I became engaged to Sarah.

Ray was born to Bill and Janet Church when they were missionaries in Rwanda at a time when the country was experiencing revival. Indeed, it was the epicentre of the East African Revival and historians tell us that Bill, and especially his brother Joe, were central figures in it. It was a revival that would have an effect on people all over the globe. Since I married into the family, I have always been delighted when members of MET have told me about their own experiences of the revival, of meeting Bill and Joe and of the influence the work there had on the early days of the Methodist Revival Fellowship - one of the constituent groups that merged to form our united movement. I am delighted, therefore, that the next edition of MET Connexion will have the theme of 'Revival'.

Here and now, some have written of signs of a new spiritual awakening within our own nation. There is evidence to suggest that people have turned to prayer and engaged in church services, through online platforms, in greater numbers than for many years. It remains to be seen what will become of all this, but of course we can be certain that the Lord has continued to build his church and to work for good for those who love him through it all.

The experience of Christians of former generations reminds us that it was in such unprecedented times that they were strengthened in their faith and that the church grew. I've been reminded of the Christians in the early church who became known as 'the gamblers' because, following the example of

Epaphroditus who 'gambled his life' to help Paul (Philippians 2:30), they would remain behind in time of plague, to care for the sick and bury the dead, when everyone else who had the means to do so fled to safety. Through such selfless action, the gospel spread.

Over months of global pandemic, Christians across the world have been reaching out, in word and deed, with the good news of Jesus Christ. Let's pray that we will see much fruit to the glory of God.

To more mundane matters, the quieter times over recent months have enabled us to catch up on some administrative tasks. We have realised that we do not have email addresses for a significant number of our partners. Email is such an important means of communication these days, so if you do not presently receive our emails, please contact Marian with your email address and we will add it to the database: admin@methodistevangelicals.org.uk.

With this magazine, you will receive the reports for the re-arranged AGM, which we hope to be able to hold in October. With those reports, you will be able to read of the new vision we believe the Lord has entrusted to us as we move into the next season of our work. As ever, it can only be done with the support of your prayers, financial gifts and faithful service on the ground. If you are able to make an additional donation to support this new vision, you will find a form and prepaid envelope has also been enclosed.

We are very grateful indeed for your continued support. We have enjoyed connecting with many partners in new ways via Zoom in recent months and hope that our paths will cross physically in coming months.

Rejoicing in our partnership in the gospel,

David