

INTRODUCTION TO THE NEW MET DEVELOPMENT WORKER

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I am writing this on my first full day as the Development Worker for MET. Six months ago, I never expected such a sudden change from Circuit ministry to this new role within MET. It is a reminder to me that we should always be open to God calling us in new directions. The key verse in my daily Bible reading notes this morning was Jeremiah 29:11, 'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.' I sensed that this verse today was a God-incidence, a further confirmation that the role of Development Worker is his plan for my life for this next season of ministry.

I was brought up in a Methodist family near Launceston, Cornwall, and was taken along to the small village chapel from infancy. It had been built as a 'Bible Christian' chapel, and even from Sunday School days, the Word of God has been an important part of my life. In the 1970's a mini-revival occurred within our Methodist Circuit, during which I asked Jesus into my life. Since then I have enjoyed the assurance of salvation that Jesus has given to me.

I left school aged sixteen and began working on my parent's farm, a career I expected to follow for the rest of my working life. During a Local Preacher's Accreditation Service, when the Revd Martin James mentioned the need for more Methodist ministers, I sensed that this was what God was calling me to explore. This was a very unexpected change of direction for me, and for my parents who were expecting me to take on the farm. I am very grateful to my

parents for the Christian upbringing that they gave to me and for their ongoing support. I then trained at Cliff College for a year, when the Revd William Davies was Principal, and was introduced to Dunamis, one of MET's forerunners, and of greater importance, experienced more of the presence and power of the Holy Spirit.

During the past twenty-five years as a Methodist minister I have served in Gloucestershire, Cornwall and now on the Staffordshire/Cheshire border, in the Dane and Trent Circuit. From 1 October this year I am halftime with MET and halftime in Circuit, and will be full time with MET from 1 September 2019. I am grateful to my Circuit for releasing me to serve in this fresh way. Please pray for my Circuit as we seek three fresh ministers for September 2019.

The Christian beliefs which are central to MET are also at the heart of my life and ministry. As Development Worker I will seek to build upon the excellent ministry of the Revd Paul Wilson and others. I don't just want to promote MET, I want to endorse what MET stands for, especially during these uncertain times for our denomination. I am willing to visit churches and circuits, to share in fellowship meetings, lead retreats and study days, and preach. Even though I am only halftime this year, please still ask me to come, and I will do what I can. Hilary, my wife, is a Local Preacher and musician, and will sometimes travel with me. Daniel, our eldest son, is in Bognor Regis with his wife, Louise, and their two daughters, where he has just started

as a Methodist minister. Jonathan, our middle son, lives with us and works locally. Peter, our youngest son is serving God in a Muslim country. We will need to find a fresh place to live as we are only able to live in our present manse until next summer; we are holding onto Jeremiah 29:11! Please uphold us in prayer, as we uphold you in prayer.

Over the years I have received a lot of teaching, encouragement and support through MET, and now want to offer more of this to others. I will be attending as many MET events as I can, with a MET stand and resources, and will also attend other Methodist events representing MET. I look forward to sharing fellowship with, and getting to know more people across the Connexion, especially members of MET. I am also willing to give pastoral support to individuals who may be struggling with Christian life and/or ministry.

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