

View from the Chair

REV DR
DAVID A. HULL

Dear Friends,

So, Methodist Evangelicals Together becomes **MET:Revive** – **Methodist Evangelicals Together in Spirit and Truth**. It feels like quite a milestone! I am so grateful to everyone who has contributed to our various consultations and conversations to help us clarify this vision for the present age.

I do hope you will be able to join us for our AGM when we will formally mark this moment of transition: bank holiday Monday 27 May at 3 pm as part of the Cliff College Festival. The formal papers for the AGM are included in this mailing and can also be downloaded from www.methodistevangelicals.org.uk/AGM. I hope you will enjoy reading them.

Earlier the same day (Monday 27 May), I will be presenting a seminar at Cliff Festival from 1 to 2 pm: 'Going back to where it all began'. I will be sharing something of the vision that has inspired our fresh focus – a vision that inspired our forebears in the greatest revival this country has ever known – indeed, a vision for all Christians in every time and place.

I am convinced that preparing for, pursuing, and praying for revival is our greatest need today, both within the church and within the world. Revival is thought of in all sorts of different ways, but if we understand it – as I do – to be 'the recovery of authentic Christianity, accompanied by the extraordinary power of the Holy Spirit, leading to accelerated transformation in holiness, evangelism, and society' then, surely, that has always been a central task for the followers of Jesus.

It has been a great privilege to share the vision more widely at a series of MET:Local events around the country. I am very grateful indeed to all those who have hosted these events, and to everyone who has come along; it has been wonderful to reconnect with friends as I have travelled. There are more of these events on the horizon – for more details, please visit www.revive.me.uk. If you would like to explore hosting one in your own church or circuit please get in touch: invite@revive.me.uk. Large or small, all invitations are welcome. It is a joy to be able to get the message out!

Later this year – in the Autumn – I will hand over the chairmanship to Rev. Chris Briggs. We are already working side by side, so that he can receive the baton smoothly. If you can, please do join us for our MET:Revive Annual Gathering in Northampton from Friday 15 to Sunday 17 November. Come for the weekend, or just a day. It would be great to have you with us! You will be able to witness the moment of the passing of the baton, joining with us in celebrating the past and praying for the future. I am delighted that Jacqui Parkinson will be joining us as a keynote speaker. Jacqui is well known for her unique evangelistic work as a textile artist. She is the widow of Rev. Dr Rob Frost who was a mentor to me in the early years of ministry, and I now support their son Andy Frost in serving as chair of trustees for Share Jesus International. For further details of the gathering and to book, please go to www.methodistevangelicals.org.uk/revive.

As we transition from season to season, and MET becomes MET:Revive, so too does MET Connexion become RE:VIVE. This has involved a very significant amount of work, not least for our Administrator and Editor, Marian Izzard, who has – as ever – continued to work with diligence, patience and good grace to serve the Lord through facilitating our work. I am sure we all want to join in expressing our thanks to her and praying for her continued ministry in this way and many others.

It is a great encouragement to be able to carry, in the central pages of this inaugural edition, words of greeting and endorsement from evangelical leaders, both within and beyond the Methodist Church. We are so grateful for those who stand alongside us, and especially in this moment of transition for those who have preceded us in evangelical witness within the Methodist Church through our predecessor organisations: Methodist Evangelicals Together, Headway, the Methodist Revival Fellowship, Conservative Evangelicals in Methodism and Dunamis. Long may the living waters flow!

Rejoicing in our partnership in the gospel,

David