

From the Circuit Meeting

A Circuit Meeting was held on 18th September at Kingsdown Methodist Church.

The meeting began with Holy Communion led by our new Superintendent Minister, Rev Steve Day.

Welcoming Rev Steve Day

The first order of business was the introduction of Rev Steve to the circuit. To help our new Superintendent to get a feel for the circuit and its variety, Rev Steve invited churches to arrange a visit where they can introduce him to their people, building and local area in whatever way they think best. Each church is encouraged to creatively showcase not only their congregation but also the surrounding community. Rev Day also shared his passion for building bridges—both literally and figuratively. He has previously led groups on walks across London's bridges, using these journeys as metaphors for connecting people in ministry. Rev Steve would like to organise similar walks for our circuit, offering a unique way to strengthen the bonds between churches and reflect on our shared mission.

Important Training Update

A key topic at the circuit meeting was the essential training on Unconscious Bias and Equality, Diversity & Inclusion. All church and circuit officers are required to complete this training, which ought to have been completed by the end of December 2023. A central circuit database has been created to track who has completed the training. If you have already done so, please inform the Circuit Manager so your records can be updated. For those facing challenges accessing the online training, face-to-face sessions can be organised. EDI and Unconscious Bias training are seen by the Methodist Church as vitally important to the life of any circuit, ensuring our churches remain a welcoming and inclusive space for all.

Appointments and Opportunities

The meeting confirmed several key appointments:

- Deputy Superintendent: Rev Sue Male
- Local Complaints Officer: Rev Steve Day
- Synod Representative: Karen Whitehouse
- Examiner of Circuit Accounts: Summers Morgan

The meeting also agreed to the formation of a standing Circuit Invitations Committee, which includes ministers, circuit stewards, and representatives

from each church. Notably, there are vacancies for representatives from Greenford and Northolt.

The circuit will also need a new Treasurer from September 2025, as Stephen Sears has announced his intention to step down after many years of dedicated service. Additionally, new Circuit Stewards are needed to share in the responsibilities of guiding the circuit.

If you or someone you know feels called to serve in these capacities, please reach out. Your gifts and talents could greatly benefit our community.

Finance

The Circuit Treasurer provided an update on the circuit's financial health, noting that the budget for the upcoming year is in preparation. The Circuit Leadership Team will finalise it, incorporating input from church treasurers.

The meeting also agreed to update the circuit's online payment authorisation process to include Rev Steve Day, ensuring payments can be made more quickly and easily.

Property

- Kings Hall and Pitshanger: Plans are progressing to place Kings Hall on the open market. A team comprising Rev Day, Circuit Treasurer Stephen Sears, and advisors from the Connexion and District will interview prospective land agents. A Designated Adviser report will also be commissioned to guide the circuit on the best use of these sites. To support these efforts, the circuit has secured a £25,000 grant from the District Advance Fund.
- The meeting approved the purchase and fitting of a new kitchen at the Superintendent's manse in Elers Road, which completes the wider renovation project. New carpets have also been approved for the manse at Queen Anne's Gardens.
- Rental Properties: The meeting agreed to proceed with the eviction of the tenant in Flat 7 Havelock House, who has not paid rent since March. Sintons solicitors have been engaged to commence legal proceedings. The meeting also agreed to the renewal of the tenancies at the two Newton Avenue flats, both of which have seen rent adjustments to bring historically low rents in line with market values as required under charity law.

Safeguarding

A new circuit safeguarding policy has been adopted, reinforcing our commitment to the safety and well-being of all members. A meeting for church safeguarding representatives took place on Tuesday, October 8, at 7pm.