

BPW Methodist Circuit



Newsletter

Issue 87

July 2023

Message from The Revd Loraine N Mellor, Superintendent Minister

Dear Friends and Colleagues, This is my last letter to you as Superintendent as Revd Nichola will take over responsibility on the 1st of August and I am sure you will welcome her warmly among you as you did with me when I unexpectedly took over as Superintendent in May of last year.



I hope Nichola will find in the Bodmin Padstow and Wadebridge Circuit people who will support, encourage and enable her in her new role. I hope Nichola will encounter a Circuit which is clear about its purpose, to make new disciples, a Circuit that is certain of its future, a Circuit that is going for growth, building on the work of the away day a few weeks ago and the brave decisions you have made to sell chapels and to invest in people and mission. You are to be commended.

I want to pay tribute to the Circuit Leadership Team, Tracey, Caroline, Mo, Myra, Sophie, Fran, Delia, Andrew and Peter who have been magnificent in the last months and have kept everything running smoothly in the Circuit and worked over and beyond what is expected. Much of what they have been doing has been unseen and I know many of you in the Circuit will echo my thanks and praise for such a great team who work alongside you. We owe them a debt of gratitude for the enormity of the tasks they have undertaken, and I am very grateful to them all.

It's been a real privilege for me to be your Superintendent, thank you all. I have laughed with you, shared a lot of cake, and it's been a joy to share in worship, church and Circuit Meetings, Local Preachers' Meetings and lots of prayer and reflection as I have travelled from Truro to different parts of the Circuit. Please be assured of my continued prayers as you transition in the Circuit. I am sure you will continue to go from strength to strength as you trust in our ever-faithful God.

*Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not;
as Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.*

*Great is Thy faithfulness!
Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed Thy hand hath provided:
great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

Every blessing
Loraine

Hello again

This is a time of change. We say goodbye to Revd Loraine who relinquishes her role as our Superintendent at the end of July. Revd Nichola will be taking over a little earlier than anticipated on 1st August. Revd Nichola's Welcome Service is at the Town Hall on Sunday 3rd September at 4pm. We hope to see as many people as possible attend to formally welcome Revd Nichola to our Circuit.

It's 'all change' at Connexion too as we hear about our new President and Vice-President of Conference (and those designated for election into those posts next year). Also, Caroline Bailey tells us about her new job at Newquay as she leaves her present role in BPW Circuit. Revd Mo shares her experience of Bodmin Pride while we hear about the wider role of the Church within the LGBTQ+ community from Revd James Pritchard, Chaplain at Keele University who writes in the Methodist blog. Revd Gwen brings us up to date with what is happening at PCN.

We conclude with a series of 'advertisements' for events taking place around the Circuit during July, August and into September which include a special birthday for John Bennallick and a fundraising event for Taylor Jones a very brave young boy who we have featured before in the newsletter (and we even think about Christmas!)

A reminder there will be no Newsletter in August.

Best wishes,
John & Tracey

office@bpwcircuit.org.uk
j.tilling@btopenworld.com
traceycollins360@icloud.com

Bodmin Christian Aid Collection

Anne Vine from Bodmin Methodist Church has once again done a sterling job of collecting for Christian Aid in the Bodmin Area. The total raised this year is £723.94

Thank you Anne for all the work and commitment you have given to Christian Aid.

All Change at BPW

On behalf of the Circuit Stewards I would like to express my thanks for the support and guidance we have received from Rev Loraine Mellor as our Acting Superintendent this last year. As well as looking after us she has also had her main job as District Chair. As a Circuit we have benefitted from her preaching and leading worship both in our individual chapels but in some brilliant Circuit Services too – the highlight being the visit of the then Vice President at The John Betjeman Centre in Wadebridge. We will always be grateful for the clear insight and focus that Loraine has given us. This is from her deep understanding of how the Methodist systems work and her strong and professional management style. In what has been a very challenging period we have been guided carefully and gracefully through the maze of stationing and the day to day running of the Circuit.

As we head towards our new period and welcome Nichola Jones as our Superintendent Minister we are also saying goodbye to Caroline and Myra in their Lay roles. Myra will still be active in the Circuit as Local Preachers' Secretary, a Local Preacher and a member at Wadebridge. Thank you both for the pastoral and preaching work you have done with the different congregations, helping groups with their projects and day-to-day support. We wish you both the best. Caroline has taken up a position with the Newquay Circuit so will not be far away either.

It would be remiss of me not to acknowledge the work Tracey is doing for us as our Circuit Manager at this stage too. Tracey has kept everything going from the office and overseeing the property refurbishments and property sales and has really stepped up going above and beyond to keep the Circuit functioning. So thank you to everyone as we step out in faith into the next chapter of Circuit life.

Andrew Jenkins

All Change at Conference

President and Vice-President 2023/24: The conference formally welcomed the new President and Vice-President. The induction took place on Saturday 24th June at the Hilton Birmingham Metropole, during the Methodist Conference.

The **Revd Gill Newton** has been elected and inducted as President of the Methodist Conference. Mrs Newton is a lifelong Methodist, raised in Cornwall, with experience in circuit ministry and has served as the Sheffield District Chair since 2014. Mrs Newton chairs the Ministries Committee overseeing the development of the church's ministry in many varied contexts. She also serves on the Strategy and Resources Committee and on the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes Board and has previously chaired the Ministerial Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee and served as Chair of the Chairs.



In her Conference address, Mrs Newton reflected on her theme for the year, calling on all Methodists to look for 'Hidden Treasures'. She said: "It's my hope that during this year I will discover hidden treasures as I spend time with the Methodist people across the Connexion and that I might encourage others to discover the treasure that God has hidden for them."

The Vice-President, **Deacon Kerry Scarlett**, was also elected and inducted. Ms Scarlett has been a Deacon since 2008, having previously worked for the Methodist Church in Ireland's Children and Youth Department. Ms Scarlett is part of the Learning Network, aligned to the Birmingham District. She has a passion for justice, community organising, and seeking to enable and amplify the voices of others. She founded Adavu, which supports survivors of human trafficking and was involved in the development of the West Midlands Anti-Slavery Network for practitioners. Ms Scarlett has served the church in a number of ways including circuit ministry, theological education, the Learning Network, a variety of committees including the Candidates Committee and has contributed to and worked on the Candidating Review report and Walking With Micah.



In her address to the Conference on the shared Presidential theme of 'Hidden Treasures', Ms Scarlett called for: "The Methodist Church in Britain, to re-discover our treasures, both old and new. We need to seek the courage to understand who we are, as a church, and what God is calling us to be. We are also called to seek outwards, beyond the walls of our established churches, to the communities around us, where God is also at work, amongst God's beloved people there. To find out the glimmers of where God is, in the unexpected people and places where transformation is taking place."

President and Vice-President Designate for 2024/25: The Methodist Conference has elected the Revd Helen D. Cameron to serve as President and Mrs Carolyn Godfrey to serve as Vice-President, starting their year of office when the Representative Session of the Methodist Conference opens in Leeds in June 2024.

The Revd Helen D. Cameron is currently the Chair of the Northampton District, and Moderator of the Free Church Group. She has served as Assistant Secretary of the Conference and was the Director of Methodist Formation at the Queens Foundation. Helen enjoyed circuit appointments in the Birmingham South-West and the Elmdon circuits and is committed to the enabling, resourcing and flourishing of lay and ordained ministry. She has served in an Anglican/Methodist LEP, in industrial and rural mission, in areas of significant deprivation and in the joy of growing churches.

Mrs Carolyn Godfrey is the District Safeguarding Officer covering both the Darlington and Newcastle Districts and a local preacher. She has a background in pastoral care and child protection within the education system helping to support children

with additional needs and families facing complex issues. Carolyn has a Master of Education degree which focused on social, emotional and behavioural difficulties.

A Message from Caroline



As I write this, I realise that it is my last contribution to the newsletter in my current role for the Bodmin, Padstow and Wadebridge Circuit. My first article was for February 2021, just before I started back at work after a year of furlough through the first year of the pandemic. I've shared stories, reflections, poems and reports of projects I've been involved with - but this time I'm starting off by saying thank you!

I started my job as a schools worker but am leaving as a lay pastor – and it's been a tremendous privilege to get to know so many of you across our area of Cornwall, to lead worship and preach across our chapels and to share in our varied communities. I have also been honoured to be able to share in leading Holy Communion both in home visits and church services, and to develop in funeral ministry by leading my first funerals over the last year. I have learnt so much, and really enjoyed my unexpected 'on the job' induction into the Methodist Church. When I trained as a Licensed Lay Minister in the Anglican Church, I didn't know that I'd end up putting so much of it into practice here in Cornwall within the Methodist Church!

As I move into my new role as Mission Enabler at Newquay Methodist Church, I carry with me many memories and experiences that have shaped and helped me. I want to express my love and thanks to all of you – for the warm welcome that I receive at every church, for your generosity and hospitality (delicious pasties and cream teas seem to accompany most events!) and your kindness towards me.

I also want to thank my colleagues, the CLT, the local preachers and the church stewards for sharing ministry with me and supporting me on my journey with this role. It is good to know that this Circuit has both Rev. Nichola and Rev. Mo in place for the next few years, and I look forward to seeing how things develop as BPW continues to seek God's ways and plan into the future. God is faithful and God is good! I am also excited to see how we can all continue to share in ideas and ministry together across Cornwall, finding new ways to collaborate bringing God's 'life in all its fullness' to people here. So, let's be bold and brave and have an adventure together with God!

I'd like to share a prayer I recently came across as part of a Morning Prayer written by Christine Valters Paintner to companion her book *The Soul of a Pilgrim*:

Journeying One, you help us to navigate the path, placing one foot in front of the other, even when the way ahead is not visible.

We set aside our desire for maps, GPS, and guidebooks and surrender to an inner knowing and direction, sparked by the deepest longings of our hearts.

We know the desire for new life we feel has been kindled by you.

May we surrender our need to steer the course and let every step we take carry us into greater intimacy with you.

Help us to see others as fellow pilgrims on the way with their own fears and struggles.

Compel us to reach out a hand in loving compassion and support, and may we recognise all these holy guides who disrupt our intended paths as sparking a new direction on our way. Amen

God bless
Caroline Bailey

Bodmin Pride



As I was starting to feel better after a nasty bout of Glandular Fever, my mood was lifted somewhat (I was feeling VERY sorry for myself) by yet another day of glorious sunny weather. And what better way to entice me back to normal activity than Bodmin Pride which loomed. I got to work on my placard (by instructing Robin to disappear into the garage and make one!) He did well in his mission with the aid of half a broom handle and an old shelf.

The day itself (17th June) was an amazing experience. There were hundreds of us who met up at the Town Wall and paraded down Fore Street with the "world's largest Pride flag". I spoke to scores of people who commented that they were grateful that 'the Church' was there. People said 'thank you' to me on a number of occasions and my response was of course that I/we should not be thanked. It was an honour to be there amongst such wonderful compassionate human beings whom God made and loves. I said 'sorry' to the people who thanked me, for the hurt the Church has so often caused - to which they seemed genuinely touched.

As we passed the Methodist Church there were several church folk waiting in the doorway to cheer and holla as we passed! The parade finished in Priory Park where the rest of the day





was an enormous celebration. Live music, comedy, dance, an excellent drag queen act – it was an all-round party and day of celebration. It would be lovely if next year we could get a few people from the Circuit together to represent the Circuit more widely (and so I don't get lonely!) Maybe we could set up a stall and offer a 'quiet/time out space' or a place for a cuppa and chat. As always, willing volunteers are vital.

It was a truly wonderful day. It reminded me of one of my favourite hymns:

*This is the day,
this is the day that the Lord has made,
that the Lord has made.
We will rejoice,
We will rejoice and be glad in it,
and be glad in it.*

It was certainly a day when the Spirit came!
Shalom!
Mo

EDI & LGBTQ+ why it's more than just letters!

Revd James Pritchard, Coordinating Chaplain at Keele University, shares this blog regarding the important role of university chaplaincy in the LGBTQ+ community.



At Keele Chapel we have long sought to be an affirming and inclusive Christian community, and in recent years it has become a central part of our identity. We proudly display signs to make this clear, stating: 'We believe all people are made in the image and likeness of God. We celebrate our diversity and seek not to discriminate on the basis of gender, mental health, physical ability, race, sexuality or any other such distinctions.'

We are honest that our community includes a wide range of theological, ethical and moral understandings, beliefs and practices but also that we are committed to belonging together and loving each other, even as we live with the tension of these differences. This approach for us is an outworking of what Paul talks about in Ephesians: *"Live the kind of life which proves that God has called you. Be humble and gentle in every way. Be patient with each other and lovingly accept each other. Through the peace that ties you together, do your best to maintain the unity that the Spirit gives. There is one body and one Spirit. In the same way you were called to share one hope."* Ephesians 4:1-4.

What we are also clear about is that we are called to be a safe place for those who have at times been hurt or damaged by the Church, and a safe place for those who identify as LGBTQ+. I asked a student to read one Sunday and she was nearly in tears, saying she would never have been allowed to do so in her previous church. She recently reminded me of the hurt often inflicted by the Church, and the shocking truth that you are more likely to attempt suicide if you are a Queer Christian than if you are Queer and have never entered a church. She said: *'The church is supposed to be a place of welcome, love, community and aid, not somewhere that destroys a person so much that they cannot see a future.'*



In a university setting we encounter many young adults whose world view and societal understanding can be very different than those of many in our church. As a university chaplain I have spent much of my ministry engaged beyond the bounds of the Church seeking to reflect Christ in a secular context.

It is at times a challenge but one that has led to many interesting conversations, not least around equality and diversity - people have sometimes been surprised to find me speaking out in support of the LGBTQ community with some expecting me to be providing a block not a steppingstone to inclusivity. To live out my faith and practically declare the love of God leads me to work for justice and liberation, and Equality Diversity and Inclusion is a great way of being involved in that important missional activity.

The rate of change in society and understanding around things like gender identity and even sexuality can make it hard for some to know how to engage positively, but as one of our students says: *'Last time I checked, Jesus didn't add caveats when he told us to 'Love each other as I have loved you'. We don't have to understand, or even agree, to love one another - it's our fundamental calling and part of what we are striving to do as a Church in living with contradictory convictions.*

Over the last few years, there has been an increase in Christian students who may have a more evangelical theological outlook for whom LGBTQ+ inclusivity is fundamental and indeed something they actively look for in seeking out a church. The false divide between more conservative and liberal theological perspectives on these areas is far less pronounced now than it ever was before. Among many young adults this is something they see no conflict between.

As a straight cisgender ally, I think LGBTQ+ inclusion in the church is very important. As well as being a moral issue in which we have the opportunity to do what, I believe, is right I think it really is an issue in terms of our Christian witness to the world. When we see the harm done by the church to many LGBTQ+ people, and this can often be indirect, I think it's our duty to not perpetuate that, but rather work towards the opposite.'

If, as I hope, churches are wanting to take seriously their witness amongst younger generations we need to take inclusivity seriously and work for justice and inclusion. (One way in which you can do this is by signing up to be an [Honest Church](#) organised by SCM Student Christian movement).

My time at Keele is drawing towards its end and it will be a great sadness as I will leave behind such a rich, diverse Christian community one I've been proud to be a part of and where in our diversity I have learnt more of God.

What have we been up to at PCN?



First of all, I really must get that photo of me changed that appears on the Circuit website! Yes, it really is me although I can well understand if you find it difficult to believe. It was taken over ten years ago, and it was somewhat flattering even then. I was all 'glammed up' for a big birthday celebration hosted by Tracey and I was 'caught on camera' as they say. Tracey has been badgering me (i.e., asked me nicely) to let her have a replacement photo so I suppose I must!

Now, to get back to my brief which is to give an update on PCN. The good news is that we are steadily growing in number with interest from people around the county, from several denominations, as well as from people who don't identify with organised religion at all. We have had some interesting and fascinating discussions.

In April we adopted an Easter theme and talked about the Resurrection – it transpired that many of us had been reading Bishop Shelby Spong's book of that title which I think most of us found both interesting and compelling. Then in May we continued discussing Marcus Borg's book 'The Heart of Christianity' which we had started back in March. As before we drifted down so many tangents that if one had never read the book, (which some of the group hadn't) it really wouldn't have mattered!

The first part of our June meeting was taken up with discussing a letter written by a former Trustee of PCN that was published in the most recent edition of the PCN magazine 'Progressive Voices' with regards to whether PCN should sign a petition against the opening of new oil fields. The Trustee in question actually resigned over this issue as the initial thoughts by the trustees were that this was not appropriate for PCN as an organisation to do. It was good to get the views of our local group so that I could report these back at the Trustee Meeting in Birmingham later in the month. It really wasn't practical for me to travel all the way to Birmingham for a five-hour meeting so I, and another colleague, attended by Zoom. Our final thoughts, and our response, will be published in the next edition of Progressive Voices which will be available in September.

And the second part of our June meeting? We must thank the Rev Loraine because we referred to her opening message in the March edition of the Circuit Newsletter. We looked at her final paragraph and discussed how the various phrases in that paragraph resonate with us as progressives.

Just in case you are not up to date with the doings of the Cornwall District MWiB (Methodist Women in Britain) back in May they held two District days, one down west and the other on the following day for the eastern part of the District. Our very own Revd Mo was invited to be the Speaker at both, and as you will know she is a passionate supporter of PCN and until a few years ago a Trustee. So, what better opportunity to introduce the Methodist women of Cornwall to PCN! She showed four of

the short films produced by PCN in the 'Made of Stories' series, each one telling the story of an individual in the light of their faith or their experience of the church.

We heard Gemma's story who had a negative experience in her evangelical church and now identifies as a Hindu. Married to a Church of England vicar, their children are being brought up experiencing the practice of both Hinduism and Christianity.

Then we heard Nathaniel's story. Nathaniel is a young gay man, the son of a devoutly Christian mother who fully supports her son. However, it took many years for Nathaniel to confide in his mum that he had contracted HIV as a result of his very first sexual encounter. Although he continued to have the love and support from his mum, he was no longer part of the church that he had been brought up in. He felt there could no longer be a place for him there, that he would be deemed a sinner.

Next, we listened to Holly's story. Holly saw demonstrating against climate change as an expression of her Christian faith and challenged all of us to be more actively involved in this. Finally, we heard Greg's story. Greg had been dismayed by the run-down state of his local church and the lack of leadership in his local community in Wythenshawe. With the help of others, he started a gym, and a café and other facilities with a church attached – in contrast to a church with various facilities attached. What really brought his story to life was when Revd Loraine shared with us that she had lived in the Wythenshawe area and knew of Greg's project and recognised the minister who had featured in the film.



After each of the films we had an opportunity for discussion and to ask questions. Unfortunately there wasn't enough time to watch the other two films in the 'Made of Stories' series but you can access these on the PCN website: [Homepage | Progressive Christianity Network Britain \(pcnbritain.org.uk\)](http://Homepage | Progressive Christianity Network Britain (pcnbritain.org.uk)).

The Cornwall Group of PCN continues to meet on the second Tuesday of the month at Fraddon Village Hall at 7.30pm. Please join us if you think this might be for you. A very special welcome to any man not called Andrew. All the men in the group just happen to be called Andrew which gets confusing. But having said that we welcome anyone by any name – even Andrew

Revd Gwen

Upcoming events

The Circuit Welcomes the Revd Nichola Jones!

There will be a Welcome Service for our new Superintendent Minister, the Revd Nichola Jones on Sunday 3rd September at 4:00pm in Wadebridge Town Hall. Tea will be served afterwards. ALL WELCOME.

MILLPOOL METHODIST CHURCH



SUNDAY 16th JULY 2023

11 AM SERVICE

REVD PETER WHATTON

FOLLOWED BY A

BUFFET SALAD LUNCH

FROM 12.45 PM

**YOU ARE WARMLY INVITED TO
THE SERVICE OR TO JOIN US
FOR LUNCH ONLY.**

PLEASE BOOK FOR THE LUNCH
with SHIRLEY on 01208 813685 or
Email johnandshirleydoran@hotmail.co.uk

An evening of

Songs of Praise

6pm Sunday 23rd July

Lanivet Methodist Church

led by Revd Mo Lawson Wills

with Mike Jones and Colin Arthur.

**Come and add your voices, and join us for
refreshments afterwards...**



You are invited to call in for a pasty and cream tea at St Wenn Village Hall from 2 - 5pm on Sunday 30th July to help celebrate the 90th birthday of



John Bennallick

90

RSVP by 20 July: 01637 880723 or pgbennallick@gmail.com
Let us know if veggie pasties required.

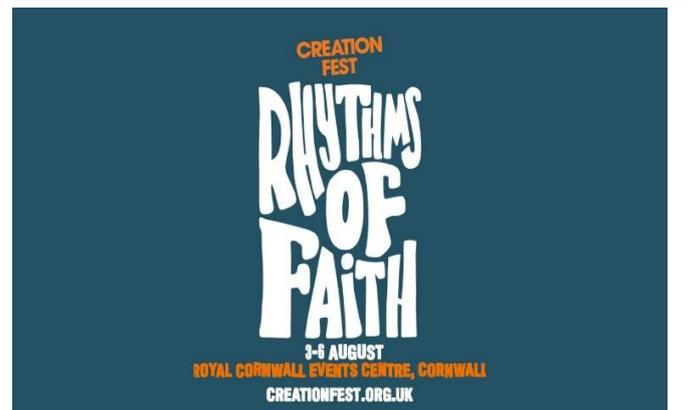


No presents, just your presence, but any donations for Cornwall Hospice Care and Cornwall Air Ambulance would be gratefully received.



- FAMILY FUN** ● 2pm Circus Skills, Children's Rides, Inflatables & Refreshments
- CARNIVAL PARADE** ● 6pm Entry to the carnival is FREE and can enter from 6pm
- 7pm Carnival starts from Egloshayle Park
- FIREWORKS** ● 9:45pm
- MUSIC & DRINK** ● till 11pm Music from the Strutts and a bar on Jubilee Field till 11pm

Supported by Wadebridge Town Council and Wren
More info contact info@wadebridgecarnival.co.uk



CREATION FEST Take a look at this video to see what the festival is all about: <https://methodist-news.org.uk/BVI-8BY1W-WEKOE6-56V4B2-1/c.aspx> and explore the event homepage at <https://creationfest.org.uk/>

TAYLOR'S TEA PARTY
Hosted By Felicity and Jonney Hawkey

Saturday 19th August
2pm - 5pm
GWYNARTH, GONVENA HILL PL27 6DH
(OPPOSITE WADEBRIDGE SCHOOL)

DONATIONS WELCOME FOR REFRESHMENTS

WE ARE RAISING MONEY FOR TAYLOR. A LOCAL YOUNG BOY WHO IS BLIND AND LIVES WITH COMPLEX DISABILITIES

Local live music
Cream tea
Cake stall
Tombola
Plant sale
and a fantastic raffle

We would love to see as many people join us to raise money for Taylor

CORNWALL FOLK FESTIVAL
Wadebridge Thurs 24th - Mon 28th Aug 2023

50th Festival!

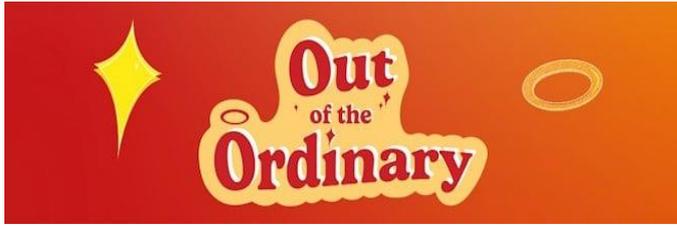
EVENINGS Thurs-Sun
Town Hall & Betjeman Centre
SETH LAKEMAN
KINNARIS QUINTET
GIGSPANNER BIG BAND
CEILIDH with **KRELYS**
PLUS: Sarah McQuaid Teyr
Our Atlantic Roots Windjammer
Chris Ostler Lakeman & Murch
Cat Florence

DAY TIME Sat-Mon
FAR STAGE
Behind Wadebridge Wines from 11am
Local musicians • Stowes
• John the Fish Tribute
£3 pp or £5 family per day

FREE
Music & Dance in Streets
Pub Sessions

[CORNWALLFOLKFESTIVAL.COM/tickets](https://cornwallfolkfestival.com/tickets)

Christmas is Coming!



This year's Methodist Church Christmas Campaign entitled '*Out of the Ordinary*' was launched at Conference. More details to follow in September so that churches can make a decision about getting involved.

Links

Cost of Living:

- [Cornwall Council cost of living page](#)

Mental Health:

- call the Samaritans on 116 123;
- mind.org.uk/coronavirus;
- mentalhealth.org.uk/coronavirus.

Singing the Faith Plus website link:

- www.methodist.org.uk/

Tubestation:

- www.tubestation.org

Methodist Church social media:

