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In summary, I am honoured to have received this role, excited by the challenge, and a bit in awe of its potential.

It will be hugely rewarding to play some part in encouraging carbon reduction in our churches, manses and even members' homes.

Such projects could inspire those outside the church to do their bit. Furthermore, workers on our projects will have another of those reasons to ask, "Why are these people doing this?"

Of course, realistically some of you will be asking the same question, given that financial resources are limited, and the benefits of some so-called "green" products and services are debatable.

Nevertheless, I promote the cause of carbon reduction in the paragraphs below, with more ideas to follow.

Meter reading

Individuals are requested to check their church diary to see if there is a reminder on 1st September for someone to read the meters.

This is because the 2007 Methodist Conference committed the Church to reducing its carbon footprint but I believe many properties have yet to establish their baseline.

Secondly I would like to engage with district and circuit property officers. For example, how is the above commitment viewed when considering property improvement projects?

Finally for now, it would be great to hear from people who have already taken steps to improve energy efficiency in their church or home.

Perhaps we could form a network to share experience and help others. My contact details are: email howard_warrener@hotmail.com; telephone 01788 55338

District News

The **Methodist Church**
Northampton District
July 2013

DISTRICT EXECUTIVE NEWS

By Roy Slocombe

The District Executive met in mid June to deal with a slightly lighter than usual but still extensive agenda.

The committee bade farewell to Revd John Anderson, district ecumenical officer, and thanked him for all his work on behalf of the district in the ecumenical arena. John is leaving us for a new appointment on the north Wales coast. We also said farewell to Revd David Warnock as he comes to the end of his three-year term as district representative to the Methodist Council. David will no doubt be relieved at the loss of the substantial amount of paperwork and pre-reading that membership of the Methodist council brings.

Trichy Link

Many readers will be aware of the Northampton District's participation in the multi-denominational link with the Trichy Anglican Diocese in south India, and Revd John Anderson advised the district executive of two impending visits to Trichy. One will be in August, which is somewhat short notice. The other takes place in January 2014. The Diocese of Leicester is handling the planning, particularly for a number of their curates, and also for others interested in going to Trichy, where many of the hosting churches have a Methodist heritage. More information can be obtained from Vic Allsop, the County Ecumenical Development Officer for Leicestershire. Contact Clematis Cottage, 14 Church Lane, Hoby, Melton Mowbray, LE14 3DR; telephone 01664 434697; email cedo.cil@fsmail.net.

New network

In 2012, the Methodist Conference approved the setting up of the disciple and ministry learning network. The network will provide a

new basis for the delivery of training within Methodism, and is due to come into operation in September this year.

In a related move, the district executive committee was pleased to learn that Paul Taylor, previously our district training and development officer and currently working at national level, has been appointed director of learning and development (regions). Other appointments will follow soon at connexional and regional levels. On hearing of Paul's new appointment, the district executive sent him a letter of congratulations and good wishes.

METHODISTS AND ANGLICANS UNITE TO SUPPORT PIONEERS by Tim Woolley

Following years of partnership in the Gospel to support what are known as Fresh Expressions of Church, the Northampton Methodist District and the Anglican Diocese of Leicester have formalised a scheme to jointly commission/license pioneers (non-ordained, normally volunteer leaders of new forms of church). The scheme, which is an extension of what has been in place in the diocese for the past two years, means that discernment, training and continuing support and accountability offered to pioneers will now be provided ecumenically across the county and in Leicester.

Trust and respect

This latest example of the practical outworking of the covenant that the Church of England and Methodist Church have signed shows the levels of trust and mutual respect which have developed in supporting new forms of Church. There are close on two hundred new forms of church, or groups moving in that direction, across Leicestershire, such as various forms of Café Church, and some Messy Churches. Among many more examples, there are a number of Mission Shaped Communities focused on an area of need or common network, or who serve a specific neighbourhood.

Training

The introduction of the joint commissioning/licensing of pioneers builds on the jointly organised training already provided through the mission shaped ministry (MSM) course. This is a national Fresh Expressions course, which is run locally with other ecumenical partners. and which has seen almost 200 graduates in Leicestershire over recent years; a new course begins next February.

As well as helping people discern their calling, and receive training through a MSM, the new scheme also provides a structure for on-going development and accountability, as well as shared learning to reinforce the universal calling of Christians to be part of the wider Body of Christ. Also available is more customised learning and reflection through, for example, one-to-one coaching. Pioneers receive an annual training allowance to help them develop discipleship and leadership in ways specific to their calling.

The first candidates to be jointly licensed and commissioned (licensed by the bishop and commissioned by the district and circuit) are the leaders of Reside, a Fresh Expression of Church in Loughborough led by a Methodist and Anglican working in partnership. At the annual Called Together service in October 2013, where all licensed, authorised ministries in the diocese will be commissioned, each will receive the bishop's license, to be followed by a local Methodist service of commissioning.

OUR CARBON FOOTPRINT by Howard Warrener

The baton marked 'district advocate for carbon reduction' was held out to me, Howard Warrener, and I took it. I now reach out to you in various ways from Rugby, this being one and face-to-face meetings another. Please get in touch via the contact details below. Those with internet access can also visit the 'Hope in God's Future' section of www.northamptonmethodistdistrict.org.uk.

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