

TRICHY TALE

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the signing of the document of mutual commitment and understanding between Churches Together in Leicestershire and the Trichy diocese of the Church of South India.

A number of events will be held to celebrate this anniversary. In particular, there will be a 10th birthday celebration on Sunday, 30 September in Leicester. Fuller details will follow in due course.

An earlier celebration entitled Trichy Tale will take place on Thursday, 3 May. This will include a short AGM, an Indian meal, and reports from those who have recently visited Trichy to help with the renovation of the girls' hostel at Valparai.

PROPHETIC PRESENCE IN BISHOP STREET

Last November, a team from the Northampton District and the Methodist City Centre Network conducted a review of Leicester's city centre Bishop Street Church.

The team found a growing church offering a caring, hospitable and prophetic Christian presence in the heart of multi-cultural Leicester.

Having heard of the results of the review, the district executive has congratulated Bishop Street on its mission and ministry, and urged that its story should be more widely known.

DISTRICT WELCOMES NEW PA

Susie Palmer has taken up her duties as PA to the district chair, the Revd Peter Hancock. Susie has a Roman Catholic background and is therefore on an interesting learning curve about both Methodist procedures and those of the district's landlord, who is the Anglican Diocese of Peterborough, from whom the district rents office premises in Northampton.

Susie attended her first meeting of the district executive in December, and executive members gave her a warm welcome.

District News

The **Methodist Church**
Northampton District
February 2012

OLYMPIC TORCH TO VISIT DISTRICT By the Revd Tim Woolley, district director of mission

When Ish Lennox, Methodism's Olympics & Paralympics project co-ordinator spoke at Knightthorpe Methodist Church in the Loughborough Circuit in November, she reminded us that once 2012 began, preparations for the UK Olympics would begin in earnest.

Now, we know that the first event to affect our district will be the torch relay, which will come on Monday 2 July to Northampton, Wellingborough, Kettering, Corby, Market Harborough, Lubenham, Foxton, Kibworth Harcourt, Oadby and Leicester.

The following day, Tuesday 3 July, the torch will head to Loughborough, Asfordby, Melton Mowbray, Oakham, Uppingham and Stamford.

It will reach the south of the district on Monday 9 July, when it will go through Milton Keynes, Bletchley, Buckingham, Aylesbury, Stoke Mandeville, Bicester, Woodstock, Kidlington and Oxford. Finally, on Tuesday 10 July the torch will be in Abingdon and Wallingford.

These are only some of the torch's proposed destinations in our district. The 'More Than Gold' website has full route details, and ideas on how to get involved in making the most of the opportunities the Olympics will bring. Visit: www.morethangold.org.uk/service/the-torch-relay.

Resource pack

The ecumenical More Than Gold group in Leicestershire has produced its own resource pack for the Games. It suggests activities, resources and ideas, with each area of *Our Calling* in mind. The pack can be downloaded at www.leicester.anglican.org/2012-games.

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... *Olympic Torch contd*

Prayer symbol

The Connexion has suggested that each district create a prayer symbol for the Games that reflects something of the district. The aim is to get people talking about and praying for the Olympic and Paralympic engagement that will take place within the district. Work has begun on our prayer symbol, and the Revd Rachel Parkinson, superintendent minister of the Leicester North circuit, is co-ordinating this project. Watch out for further details!

The Methodist Church is part of the More Than Gold initiative, which exists, "to enable the UK churches to engage with the 2012 Games. More Than Gold says it wants, "thousands of churches to taste the excitement of reaching their community in fresh and ongoing ways in Jesus' name".

DISABILITY ISSUES

Circuits have been urged to encourage their local churches to consider how well they welcome people with disabilities.

The Revd John Bradley, district disabilities adviser, was due to present this challenge to circuit property secretaries at Roade Methodist Church on 27 November. However, John was unable to attend so his presentation was read to the gathering.

In his report, John stressed the need for churches to realise that those with disabilities did not just mean people in wheelchairs but also those with other forms of perhaps not-so-obvious disabilities.

All circuit property secretaries have received a copy of John's comments, and churches are encouraged to make themselves aware of them and consider in their own circumstances how best they should respond.

METHODIST CHURCH AND CARBON REDUCTION

At its December meeting, the district executive received a presentation from Philip Burns, the district's carbon reduction advocate, of the background to his appointment and the work that he is doing in the district.

Philip is currently the only appointee to a similar post in any Methodist district in the Connexion, although all have been asked to make such an appointment following a decision of the 2010 Methodist Conference.

The executive heard from Philip details of what it believes is the important assistance that Philip has provided to the Methodist Church at a national level in the area of carbon reduction activities.

Philip has a background within the Environment Agency, and is a member of Didcot Methodist Church, which achieved eco-congregation status in 2010.

Footprint

He is helping the Connexion to identify the current size of the Methodist Church's total carbon footprint, so that the Church can provide guidance to districts and churches to enable them to benchmark their own performance against comparable churches. This task is much easier said than done, and it became clear to the executive that you can prove nearly anything by the use of statistics.

National energy contract

Churches will have completed a report this year about their energy use. One of the purposes for doing so is to enable the Connexion to have the necessary information to attempt to negotiate a nationwide energy supply contract, which will hopefully have financial benefits for many churches.

The later stages of this work will attempt to provide guidance on how churches may reduce their carbon footprint based upon best practice gleaned from the experiences of churches across the Connexion.