



Methodist Vice President Ruth Pickles addressing the "Meet, Pray, Love" district gathering in Perth.

Questions are the answer, says Methodist Vice President

It was stimulating, instructive and a great pleasure to have Ruth Pickles visit Scotland so early in her year as Vice President of the Methodist Conference. Throughout her visit in October she shared her passion for Methodism and enthused about the way in which Scottish Methodists are re-discovering the value of meeting together in small groups.

The early class meetings set up by John Wesley, she said, reflected the whole Christian life of Methodists, not just segments of it. They were places of honest conversation where discipleship was deepened, members were mutually accountable and where prayer underpinned everything. "Somehow, today," she argued, "our small groups in Methodism seem to have transmogrified into other things – less focussed on matters of faith and discipleship."

Ruth recalled her own experiences of meeting in small groups, when she first became a church member and as a student in her university's Methodist Society. These were hugely valuable times for her – "a chance to air doubts and ask questions and to wrestle with issues of faith. And I think if we don't do that we're denying people something really important."

This ability to ask questions lies at the heart of

Ruth's theme for the year: "Learning as Disciples of Jesus". In many Methodist churches, she says, "we don't ask people what they think or enable them to challenge the preacher about what's being said – not in a critical way but in a questioning way. Yet, to me, that's the only way that people grow in their faith – by being able to ask questions and to hear each other's points of view and to celebrate difference."

Not only did Ruth put her ideas into practice when she led a series of small group discussions at Paisley Methodist Church (a session entitled "Glimpses of God"); she also praised the way in which the whole Scotland District is developing these ideas through the "Meet, Pray, Love" initiative. Facilitating a district-wide event on that theme in Perth, Ruth was delighted to meet over 80 people from across Scotland and to encourage discussion about how to develop small groups in local situations and to help existing groups to work even better.

"I think this programme is wonderful," she said – "just so exciting. This is something I'll be sharing with other people as I travel around the rest of the Connexion."



A place for all in God's world

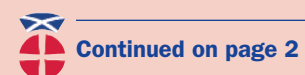
As I write, the news has just broken that Basil D'Oliveira, the South African-born cricketer who made his name playing for England, has died. Other than playing once in my student days for the Bristol Methodist Society women's team, I have never been inspired to take an interest in cricket. However, I remember well reading about the 'D'Oliveira Affair' when a teenager.

Under the apartheid regime in South Africa, D'Oliveira had been classified as 'coloured'. So when England decided to include him in a team to play in South Africa in 1968, the South African government cancelled the tour. The impact of this decision was seen as a watershed in the sporting boycott of apartheid South Africa.

Thankfully, the world has progressed in issues of discrimination and equal opportunities but there is still much to be done to achieve God's intent for all people. The Church has been challenged continually in this regard, not least across the faith spectrum.

A few weeks ago, Christians and those of other faiths walked through Edinburgh on the anniversary of '9/11'. Beginning at the Hindu Centre, we moved on to the Mosque, Baha'i Centre, Roman Catholic Cathedral and other places of worship praying together at each. Faith leaders were presented with a candle and I am taking this wherever I preach as a reminder of our common quest for peace and righteousness. I think such experiences make a mockery of the constraints put on Christmas celebrations for fear we shall offend other faiths. They also raise questions as to how much we value and affirm people of different religious traditions as well as of different ethnic and cultural backgrounds.

The abundantly inclusive Christmas message is good news of God's peace and grace for all people embodied in Jesus, who cut through the distinctions of race, gender, class and age.



This is central to Methodism and there are signs of that here in SMT as Kate Curtis shares experience of the worldwide women's conference in South Africa and Abishek Jason writes about visiting the Methodist Youth Assembly in England.

As we continue to pray for a world in which all are valued and given equal opportunities in life may our church communities model this, free from discrimination with a welcome for all.

Wishing you God's grace and peace,



Rev Lily Twist
Chair of the Methodist Synod in Scotland



Tears and ovations in South Africa

Kate Curtis was one of five Scottish representatives at the 12th World Assembly of the Assembly of the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women, held in South Africa in 2011. She brought away with her a vision of 21st century "suffragettes of Christ".

"Bambelela – Never give up". This was the theme of this World Assembly: a statement of faith and encouragement.

It was certainly a boost to my faith and commitment in Jesus. To be involved with 600 women from every continent on earth and of one faith was amazing. From the opening ceremony the African love of life and Jesus became infectious; and their singing was spine tingling. Children taken off the streets formed a band and gave a

brilliant performance, as did local school children with their amazing African dance.

Every nation and continent gave a report on their work. The poorest nations had a body of Christian women raising large amounts of money to help relieve poverty, educate children and women, and work for peace and justice in the world.

The humility of the Japanese delegate affected us all when, after giving her report, she apologised on behalf of Japan for its nuclear pollution of the world. She bowed and left the stage in tears. We responded with a standing ovation.

What a force to be reckoned with: ordinary women like me making a difference in this world through faith – "suffragettes of Christ" in the 21st century.

My JOURNEY of FAITH



1 Julya Walsh is a Local Preacher in the Angus, Dundee and Perthshire Circuit.

Questions for Reflection

What are the key events that have brought me to where I am today?

2 My parents were both registered disabled but my mother far more so. She was crippled by her disease all my life but she had a love of life and Christian values, although she seldom attended a church building. Towards the end of her life, I found that she had an unshakable faith and a generosity of spirit too.



3 I was sent to Sunday School and confirmed in the Church of England. During the preparation course for this I found I couldn't equate the God of love we hear about with the vengeful God the minister preached each Sunday. Shortly after, I left the Church.

4 In my wilderness time I had a boyfriend who asked me to join the Methodist Youth Group Drama Club. I did so but when I went to the church I thought I was in the hall because, apart from the Wesley stained glass window, there was nothing to show it was a church. The idea of simple, personal worship without overbearing ritual intrigued and excited me, but I wasn't ready for God yet.

How have particular places, people, churches, events shaped me?

5 I then had a very unhappy and unsettled period in my life, which included a short failed marriage and the loss of a baby. I blamed and hated God and denied him at every opportunity. But, when working with the Samaritans, I met a woman filled with the joy and love of God and she shared this during our night shifts.

What have been the crossroads in my life and how did I make decisions?



Methodist Women in Britain hits the road



Jenny Lee

Methodist Women in Britain (MWiB) is the new Methodist movement that incorporates Women's Network in the Methodist Church and the British unit of the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women. Jenny Lee is the MWiB Forum Representative in Scotland.

Here's a date for your diary. Methodist Women in Britain is up and running and coming to you on 12 May 2012.

The new organisation was launched in Southport on 1 July, 2011, where Lord Street Methodist Church was filled to overflowing to see the new MWiB Executive commissioned and hear from –

among many others – the Revd Baroness Kathleen Richardson. The service was an uplifting and powerful celebration, and a precursor to the launches that will be presented around the Connexion in 2011/2012.

The Scotland Launch will take place at City of Edinburgh Methodist Church in Nicolson Square from 2.30pm and will be an event certainly not to be missed. It will include a mix of worship, speakers, interviews, drama, resources and the MWiB photo exhibition.

With its ethos of spirituality and social action in a global context (in Scotland we are supporting the education of girls in the Democratic Republic of Congo), MWiB seeks to encourage, equip and enable women to serve God in the church, community and the world. We will



MWiB Forum May 2011

achieve this through worship and prayer, sharing experience, collaborative working, mutual encouragement, training for discipleship, social action, gender justice, world mission and global vision.

Sign up for the MWiB quarterly newsletter at www.mwib.org.uk and keep up to date with the latest issues being pursued.



News

6 I also worked on a local radio station programme, 'Sunday PM', as the resident agnostic alongside a mixture of faiths. I slowly learned that God loved me despite my mistakes and failings and I learned to love me too. I then joined the Methodist Church.

9 Now I really know what a close relationship with God is. I am excited by the challenge and change we are facing as the people of God. I believe that we should be 'out there' with people just as the Wesleys were and that everyone should be able to experience God's love. I truly feel that we are coming in a full circle and that the Wesleys' style of 'church' is more relevant today than it has been for a long time.

10 I also believe the words in Isaiah 49:1 – 'before I was born the Lord chose me'. So – tattoo, motorbike, jeans and all – he will use me to do his work.



Am I where I want to be?



What would help me to get to where I want to be?

What difference does being a Methodist make to my life and faith?



7 I've held many posts in the church and, as a good organiser, thought this was what I was meant to be doing and that my relationship with God was okay thanks. I thought diving with sharks and getting my motor bike licence were the height of achievement but reckoned without God.

8 When asked if I had considered becoming a Local Preacher, I immediately said 'no' and then fell to pieces for days. Much love and support later I was a truculent and grudging trainee who refused to conform and was probably a pain to work with.

Would you like to reflect on your journey of faith? Why not join us at our next Holiness & Risk gathering? See back page for details.



Ecumenical NEWS

The Church across Scotland

ACTS comes of age

Action of Churches Together in Scotland (ACTS) must learn to dance as well as sing, according to one representative at a recent service to mark 21 years since the organisation's formation in 1990. Bill Reid explains.

ACTS was created as a successor to the Scottish Council of Churches following a Britain and Ireland-wide conference in 1987, which declared: "For we are strangers no longer – but pilgrims together on the way to your Kingdom".

At a gathering in Calder Parish Church in Coatbridge on 26 October, the intervening years were described in very different ways by four ecumenical pilgrims.

Elizabeth Templeton, who has been part of the pilgrimage since its beginnings, spoke both of "vision and hopes" and of her frustrations and disappointments, encapsulated in the closure of Scottish Churches House. She had seen enthusiastic participation in ecumenism diminish as denominations have moved into "a period of increased representative ecumenism".

However Doug Aitken, of the Scottish Episcopal Church, had another take on

the current ecumenical scene. He highlighted the fact that, for many younger people, identifying with one traditional denomination is no longer significant. Many young people, he said, are drawn to the emerging Church, which not only includes new fellowships but also influences from the many, often minority ethnic, Christians who come to Scotland from abroad. ACTS members need to learn to dance as well as sing, he declared.

Pamela McDougall, Clerk to the Quakers Meeting in Scotland, and Joe Constantine, a Roman Catholic in the Glasgow Archdiocese, filled out the picture of ACTS' work at national and local levels, for example in collaboration with the Church of Scotland Priority Areas initiative, Faith in Communities Scotland and others. But if, as has recently been suggested, ACTS is a ship being propelled forward by the Spirit, it is clear that, as the wind changes ACTS, like its constituent churches, needs to be more open to taking on board new crew members and fresh visions. This way, we can learn from the past and truly be "pilgrims together", sharing the Gospel into the future.

Find out more about ACTS' work at www.acts-scotland.org.



Church Member Mark Kirkbridge outside Saughtonhall United Reformed Church

SOLAR

A LONG time ago, God said "Let there be light" – and there was. Now, Saughtonhall United Reformed Church in Edinburgh is harnessing one of the most powerful gifts from the Almighty by installing solar panels on the roof of its church building.

The official switch-on took place on the afternoon of Sunday 30 October, when church member Anne Davidson flicked the switch. Synod moderator Revd John Humphreys was on hand to say a prayer, while Revd Ewan Aitken, convenor of environmental movement Eco-Congregation Scotland, gave a short speech.

As well as trying to save money, Saughtonhall minister Revd Sue Kirkbride told the church's neighbours and friends that placing the panels on the roof was also part of the congregation's efforts to take care of God's creation.

The 9.8kWh system took about four days to install at a cost reported to be less than £30,000. The system was installed before the UK government changed the feed-in tariff (FIT), the subsidy that people receive for selling their electricity back to the national grid, and so will pay for itself in about seven years. Under the UK government's new FIT, such a system would take about 14 years to pay for itself.

You can see a video about the installation of the system at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=php4LjyRnFQ>

Peter Ranscombe edits SynNews, the United Reformed Church National Synod of Scotland magazine.

Will we ever change?

As we enter the season of Advent, we also look forward to the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and, beyond that, to Lent and the transforming effects of spring.

During the recent visit to Scotland of the Vice President of Conference, Ruth Pickles, there was a gathering in Perth to discuss how we might grow in fellowship through working in small groups. Taken together with the call for all Methodists to be 'shaped for discipleship', how better to see how we could change but to try working in small groups.

A starting point for this might be to invite a few family and friends (including those from other churches) to share faith and fellowship together through the long winter months. If you need something to get you started, why not visit the Churches Together In Britain and Ireland website (www.ctbi.org.uk), which has a wealth of material for downloading. This includes material for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (18th-25th January) entitled 'We will be Changed', and Lent material on 'Pathways on the way to Freedom'.

For other materials there is also the Methodist and ACTS websites. So why not make a start this winter? You never know what changes spring may bring!

ideas for mission

1 Kidz Klub in East Kilbride

Kidz Klub is an activities-based format for younger children, originally developed in Liverpool. It shares Christian teachings using games, sketches and story-telling – “a cross between Saturday morning television and Sunday School”.

2 How did this project come about?

The church held an open day and used survey sheets to ask visitors about local needs. “Something for the children,” was the repeated response. Church worker Annette Robb investigated a number of options but kept returning to the Kidz Klub format.



Watch the 5 minute film on Kidz Klub in East Kilbride at www.methodistchurchinscotland.org.uk

3 What are the needs in your community that you set out to meet?

“We’re in a young area here,” says church member Rod Shanks – “young families and not a lot for youngsters to do. There’s no other community facility and we were keen to make the church more of a community venue.” Other volunteers say that the local estate was not a safe place for children – partly because they didn’t really know each other and never had the opportunity to do anything together outside school.

4 What difference does the involvement of local Methodists make to the project?

Turning the church into a weekday venue has been important for the community. Volunteers have been drawn from local parents and concerned adults, as well as church members, and occasional BBQ open days draw the community to the church to socialize. Kidz Klub “gets kids off the street and the community comes closer together because it’s a constant thing that goes on and the church is in the middle of it.”

5 What have been the ups and downs during the development of this project?

It was originally thought that Kidz Klub would be limited to 30 children but it now has over 40 registered. The team gets some help with props from another Kidz Klub in the area but what really makes this project possible is the quality, diversity and commitment of the volunteers.

6 What effect has the development of this project had on the Methodist community in this area?

“I’ve been told that there’s a bit of a buzz about the place,” says Annette, “and I think the congregation is happy with the work that’s being done.” Rod adds: “The whole thing has raised the profile of the church in the community. It’s not just a building that’s open on a Sunday.”

8 How do you see this project developing?

Kidz Klub will continue to run in 12 week blocks for the young children, but the team has begun looking at how they can run another group for younger secondary school-aged children on a regular basis.

7 What help have you received in developing and running the project?

Kidz Klub requires £2-3,000 a year to operate – to cover props and contributions towards the venue. The scheme has had help from the Methodist District and also grants from the local authority and a few smaller local organisations. “When you mention it’s kids and a community like this, there’s normally enough people willing to come forward and help financially,” says Rod.

9 What advice would you give another church community thinking of doing something similar?

Think about what you’ve got – a building, adults with some time to share? Think about what’s around you, what’s missing from your community. Think about the times that people are free to come.

For more examples of faith being worked out in local contexts, go to www.methodistchurchinscotland.org.uk.

If you have a story you would like to share, please contact Sally Robertson (Learning and Development Officer, North of Scotland): p.01350 723282 or e.sally.robertson@methodist.org.uk.

ideas for mission

1 Story Sacks in Girvan

The Bairns 'n Books Story Sack Library is a story-telling and activity initiative for young children and their carers, based in Girvan's Methodist Church. Story Sacks themselves are colourful pillowcase-sized resources of books and related toys and activities.

2 How did this project come about?

The Story Sacks Library is one initiative of Make It Happen! – a community arts group based in Girvan and founded by local residents – including Methodist member Etta Auld. She is a trained instructor with Bookbug – a scheme developed by the Scottish Book Trust.



Watch the 5 minute film on the Story Sacks project in Girvan at www.methodistchurchinscotland.org.uk

3 What are the needs in your community that you set out to meet?

Girvan's library is not in a part of town that is convenient for everyone. This is also a community in which many grandparents and carers, as well as parents, take responsibility for small children during the day. They don't always have access to the range of toys, puppets, games and books that are contained in a Story Sack. The Bairns 'n Books scheme allows them to borrow sacks and use them at home.

4 What difference does the involvement of locals Methodists make to the project?

The congregation provides not only a home for story-telling sessions but also space for custom-built storage for the sacks and toys. But this project is about people too. "Some of our members come and make sacks for us, and I've got one great granny who comes out with me when we go to nursery or school and helps me do the Story Sack sessions."

5 What have been the ups and downs during the development of this project?

The project has been time-consuming to establish ("like setting up a lending library") and creating a database of the resources has been difficult. The assistance of a trained librarian is now helping. For Etta, one big plus of the project has been the response of volunteers making the sacks – 13 to 83-year-olds all working together; another is the way in which the bonds of community are extended as parents and children get to know each other.

6 What effect has the development of this project had on the Methodist community in this area?

The congregation has found itself providing a safe, accessible and central space for children and carers who otherwise would not normally step inside a church. They feel comfortable in this much-loved building and with the church members.

8 How do you see this project developing?

Etta hopes that more volunteers will come forward to lead Tuesday story telling sessions. In the long term, she also dreams of having access to a community bus or van in order to take Story Sack sessions further afield to schools in outlying villages.

7 What help have you received in developing and running the project?

In 2007, Ayrshire and Renfrewshire circuit gave start-up funding for the project. Since then, the Scotland District has committed £15,000 over three years, which has funded the resources, storage and 2-4 hours a week of part-time assistance.

9 What advice would you give another church community thinking of doing something similar?

"Check to see what the potential is in your local area. There's no point re-inventing the wheel. If somebody is already doing something similar, talk to them first – in fact talk to them anyway because everyone knows what the pitfalls are and where the high spots are."

For more examples of faith being worked out in local contexts, go to www.methodistchurchinscotland.org.uk.

If you have a story you would like to share, please contact Sally Robertson (Learning and Development Officer, North of Scotland): p.01350 723282 or e.sally.robertson@methodist.org.uk.

The Learning & Development Team Partners in Growth and Change

The L&D Forum is here to support Methodists in Scotland and Shetland. Our work covers three 'strands' which weave and interconnect. Each of our strands is headed up by volunteer 'strand leader' – pictured below. If you think we can help or support you or your church please contact a member of the team – our details are on the back cover.



Sally Robertson, Gary Williams and Helen Wareing



Andrew Letby,
Leader Strand 1

Happy Birthday, Holiness and Risk!

Our Holiness and Risk initiative will reach its second anniversary in the spring. To celebrate this we will be holding an event on Saturday 25th February to share our experiences and develop ideas to take the initiative forward. Please plan to join us, especially if you were at the snowy launch in Dunblane Cathedral two years ago.

Holiness and Risk is all about our journeys as disciples and how we continue developing ourselves and others as we travel together. As Methodists we have a tradition of 'watching over each other in love' and the Scotland District's Holiness and Risk initiative is one way of deepening our faith through being together. In particular we would like to think more about how Holiness and Risk can be supported at a local level – for example, is this something that small groups can develop through their meetings? How could local preachers develop Holiness and Risk themes in church services?

Over the past two years we have been astonished and delighted at the creativity Holiness and Risk has generated and the life-changing impact it has had on people's lives. Please join us to reflect, celebrate and discern the next stage of accompanying each other in our journeys of deepening discipleship.



Audrey Hensman,
Leader Strand 2

Resourcing Small Groups

We were delighted to see so many people at the 'Meet, Pray, Love' small group event in Perth. One outcome from the day has been to respond to requests from small groups for more resources to use in their meetings in order to facilitate discussions and help people develop their faith.

We plan to do this in two ways. Firstly we will be promoting the wide range of existing resources available to small groups, particularly those recommended and being used by existing groups. We will do this on a new section of the website dedicated to small groups.

Secondly we will be producing some new resources for groups to use. The first of these will be available in the spring. It will draw on stories from the Bible to help us understand how small groups then and now generate energy, inspire activity and demand accountability.

The resource will be available as hard copies or to download from the website.



David Rogerson,
Leader Strand 3

Mission Shaped Ministry

Introduction: Saturday April 21st and Saturday May 26th 2012

New world, new Church? Our world and our lives have changed radically in the last twenty years, but has the Church adapted to this change? Do we need a changed Church for a changing world? Are new forms of church really possible? If so, how can they be developed?

Recently refreshed and redesigned, *mission shaped intro* explores the 'why' of creating fresh expressions of church rather than the 'how'. Over two days the course takes you on a journey looking at the ever-changing nature of our social communities and explores why the Church needs to rethink its approach to those communities in meaningful and relevant ways.

The sessions are delivered through presentation, movie clips and stories with active group participation. It is ideal for those who are starting from scratch as well as those who have attended a *vision day* or who are maybe thinking about joining the *mission shaped ministry* course.

Gary Williams will be leading this course with Jan Adamson from the United Reformed church. It will take place in a Glasgow/Central Belt location (to be confirmed). Please contact Gary to register your interest.



Hopes, fears and keypads

Abishek Jason and Calum Freeman were Scotland's representatives at the 2011 Methodist Youth Camp for 9 to 13 year-olds – 3Generate. Abishek gives us the lowdown.



Abishek and Calum at Youth Assembly

After a long drive from Stirling to , Calum and I arrived in the camp, and each got a USB wrist band, an orange 3Generate waterproof wrist band and a map.

One of the leaders showed Calum his room (I went with them) then Calum came with me to see my room. There was nobody there but, later, three boys came called Calum (not the Calum I came with), James and Jack.

On Saturday I went to breakfast in the dining hall and sat down with Calum Freeman. We got some cereals then departed to our own HQs. At the Maple Hall (my HQ.) everyone got to choose activities for the morning sessions. The choices were Reflective (about God), Creative (create things), and Active (sport).

In Creative, everyone had to paint what they thought friends are. Later, I went for Reflective, which was about charities for

children, fears and hopes of the world. It was snack time and we got a bacon butty. For the last choice of the morning, I went for Reflective again. The leader told us to imagine that we were in a room watching a TV programme and we saw an angel that said the Word of God is on its way.

Later, we all played football till 5:00pm and then we went in for dinner. Since it was the Youth President's birthday everyone got a chocolate cake! We all moved to the 'live lounge' till it was our chance to vote for the 2012 Youth President. We got keypads for the voting. The new Youth President is called Haley.

On Sunday, after breakfast we went to the for Worship. We sang songs and prayed. We got to vote for the Youth Council as well. We had a quiz and we had to answer it with a keypad. Later we had lunch and then I said goodbye to all my new friends and left with Calum Freeman for our long journey back to.

Read more about 3Generate on Youth President Sam Taylor's blog: <http://www.methodistyouthpres.blogspot.com/>.

Dates for your Diary

December

- 3rd Special District Policy Committee
- 8th Superintendents' Forum

January

- 6th Connexional Initial Stationing Meeting
- 9th-12th Connexional Forum and Chairs' Meetings
- 28th Treasurers and Circuit Stewards Meeting (Dunblane)

February

- 4th-5th Local Preachers Conference
- 9th District Taking Care Group
- 14th District Advance Fund Meeting
- 23rd ACTS Members meeting
- 25th Holiness & Risk Celebration – Learning and Development Forum (venue tbc)
- 28th-1st District Ministers' Refreshment (Coatbridge)

March

- 2nd World Day of Prayer and EMU Meeting
- 6th Connexional Ecumenical Stakeholders' Meeting
- 10th District Policy Committee
- 12th-14th Connexional Forum and Chairs' Meetings
- 19th Relief and Extension Fund Meeting
- 19th Youth Work Forum (Helensburgh)
- 24th Ministerial Development Review Training for Lay and Ordained participants

April

- 21st Mission Shaped Ministry Introduction day 1 of 2 (Glasgow)
- 27th Ministerial Synod (Angus, Dundee & Perthshire)
- 28th Synod (Angus, Dundee & Perthshire)

May

- 4th Leaders' Meeting
- 12th Scotland launch of Methodist Women in (Edinburgh – see article p. 3)
- 26th Mission Shaped Ministry Introduction day 2 of 2 (Glasgow)
- 30th ACTS Members Meeting

June

- 6th Superintendents' Forum
- 9th District Day
- 28th-29th Conference – Presbyteral Session (Plymouth)
- 30th-5th Conference – Representative Session (Plymouth)

July

- 1st Conference – Ordination Services (South West Region)

September

- 7th-9th Scotland Youth Weekend

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NEW TRAINERS FOR SAFEGUARDING

Thanks to everyone who has been helping to get safeguarding training in place. You may be aware that Conference agreed back in July a broad range of members and officers who must attend a safeguarding training session by Conference 2012.

This approach brings challenges. However, lessons learned from recent safeguarding enquiries within the Methodist Connexion have highlighted the absolutely crucial need for creating a context of informed vigilance from as broad a range of church life as possible. It is hoped that these measures will help churches, projects, circuits and districts to be safer places in which children and vulnerable adults can thrive.

We will do our best to ensure that there are plenty of opportunities to attend a training session before June 2012. Part of this commitment has been to train twenty volunteers who are willing and able to deliver training at circuit level. Our heartfelt thanks to them.

Working with the support of Learning and Development staff, they will deliver the required training sessions. If you are attending, I hope you will find the session interesting and useful. If you have problems accessing a session for any reason or would like to discuss any aspect of this further please contact Helen Wareing.

All Scotland Youth Weekend - Save the Date

Friday 7th – Sunday 9th September 2011

We are excited to confirm our booking at Badaguish Outdoor Centre, by Aviemore for 7th - 9th September 2012. Accommodation will be provided in four purpose-built chalets that each sleep around twenty people. See www.badaguish.org for some pictures of the venue.

We hope that young people aged 11-17 will come from across Scotland for a weekend of fun and

fellowship. The District Advance Fund has granted £3,000 to the event, which we hope will keep the costs to participants at a very minimal level. Please encourage young people to talk to their parents or guardians about whether they can come on the weekend. More details will follow in the spring.

If you have any question in the meanwhile, please contact Gary Williams or a member of the Youth Work Forum.

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