



## **NORTH WEST ENGLAND METHODIST DISTRICT**

# NWED Weekly News

Your weekly newsletter from the North West England District.

24th April 2025

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This week's newsletter includes:

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### District Spotlight

**Jon Purcell, Archivist Convenor for the North West England District**

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**Email: [purcelljon@hotmail.com](mailto:purcelljon@hotmail.com)**

Jon wears two 'Archivist' hats in NWED. Since September 2024 he is the Archivist for the Greater Liverpool Plus Mission Area as well as being Archivist Convenor for NWED. Archives play such an amazing role in the missional, social and heritage imperatives of the Church – they reveal who we were as the people called Methodists, who we are and who we aspire to be.

Jon is keen to raise the profile of archives and record keeping within NWED, establishing contacts with archivists and administrators working at Church, Circuit and at District level while at the same time forging contacts with Local Records Offices in the North West. A key priority will be to establish a network of everybody in NWED currently involved with archives, identifying where vacancies exist and assist in the recruitment of new volunteer archivists and develop training opportunities.

Before retirement in 2017 Jon worked as a Librarian at a number of Northern Universities including Liverpool, Newcastle, St Andrews and more recently Durham University where he was Director of Library and Heritage Services which included archives.

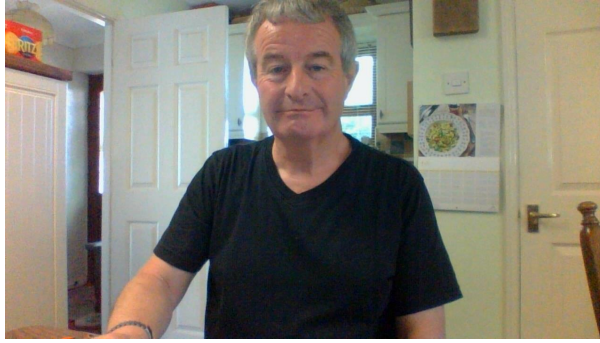
From 2018 to 2024 Jon worked for the Methodist Church in a voluntary capacity as Liaison Officer for Methodist Archives and was a member of the Methodist Heritage Committee. Jon is a member of the Archives and Records Advisory Group (ARAG) representing District Archivists and part of an ARAG working group which recently published 'The Methodist's Archivist's Handbook'.

Jon hails from a long established Methodist family in Northern Ireland and grew up in the church, was a Sunday School Teacher, involved in youth and church history projects, is married to a retired Methodist minister and attends Culcheth Methodist Church where he is Church Council Secretary.

#### KEY ARCHIVES TAKE AWAYS

- Resist the temptation to throw archives away.
- Take particular care of Baptism, Marriage and Burial Registers. These are very important historical and community documents and must be preserved.
- Seek advice from archivists working within the NWED Mission areas, from Jon (contact details above) or from the Liaison Officer for Methodist Archivists Mary Ellis email [archives@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:archives@methodistchurch.org.uk)
- Dip into 'Retention Schedules for Methodist Churches, Circuits and Districts' are available from the Methodist Church website [Retention-Schedule-300924.pdf](https://www.methodistchurch.org.uk/Retention-Schedule-300924.pdf) which offers advice on which archives should be retained, how long they should be retained for and what to do with them

Further guidance on the management of archives will be given in future newsletters



## District News

### District Diary

We have now updated the events page on the District website. The interactive calendar now includes details of when committee's are meeting, briefings and training that is being provided. Click [here](#) to see what is going on.

## Resources

### District Updates Webinar

On Thursday 27th March, an information evening was held to provide updates from each District Hub following the launch of the North West England District. If you were unable to attend, a recording of the webinar is now available to view [here](#).

### District Online Worship

On Sunday 13th April, Rev Phil Gough, District Secretary for Ministry and Vocations led an online service for Palm Sunday. The sermon is now available [here](#) to watch online.

## Events

### Cumbria

1) Open House on Monday 26th May from 10am - 4pm at Brae Lees Kirkandrews-on-Eden - an event to raise funds for Monkhill Chapel. Further details [here](#).

2) The Bereavement Journey - Seven sessions of films and discussion for anyone bereaved anytime. Sessions will be held on Thursdays from 1st May at 6.30pm-8.45pm at Cornerstone Cafe, Denton Street, CA2 5EH.

Further details can be found [here](#).

## **Greater Manchester Plus**

1) Sacred Seasons Musical – 27th April. Farnworth and Worsley Circuit. Further details can be found [here](#).

## Vacancies

### **District Property Secretary**

We are recruiting an additional District Property Secretary, details for which are available [here](#).

### **Circuit Administrator for the Farnworth and Worsley Circuit**

Further details are available to view [here](#).

### **Circuit Administrator for North Fylde Circuit**

Further details are available to view [here](#).

## Contact Us

The deadline for sending your stories and events in to us is 12pm every Tuesday. Please send all content to [admin@nwedmethodists.org.uk](mailto:admin@nwedmethodists.org.uk).