

# Better together!

## A new family of Methodist Churches and Circuits in the West Midlands.



There is less than five months to go until the launching of the new West Midlands District - forming from the merging of the Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury and Birmingham Districts. Lots of work has been going on behind the scenes to ensure a smooth transition and to make sure that we are working towards our vision for Methodism in the West Midlands as a growing, evangelistic, justice-seeking and inclusive church without walls.

## Building the Team - New Appointments

### District Chair - Rev'd Rachel Deigh

We are delighted that The Rev'd Rachel Deigh has been nominated for the role of Chair of the West Midlands Methodist District.

Rachel is currently serving as a mission partner in Sierra Leone with her husband, the Rev'd Sylvester Deigh. She offers to the new District the experience of 25 years of presbyteral ministry in a wide variety of settings, including as a circuit minister, a Superintendent, and a District Mission and Evangelism Facilitator.

Rachel's appointment will be for a period of six years from 1 September 2025. The Rev'd Novette Headley will remain as a District Chair for the first year in order to ensure a smooth transition.



### District Secretary - Lisa Murphy

We're thrilled to welcome Lisa as the new District Secretary for the West Midlands Methodist District! With 15 years of experience in the Christian charity sector, Lisa brings a wealth of knowledge in HR, finance, and project management. She is an active member of her Catholic parish, supporting young people on their faith journey, and in her spare time, she enjoys building Lego with her family, crocheting, and playing guitar.

Lisa shares: "I am delighted to be joining the new District and working with Rev'd Novette, Rev'd Rachel, and the wider team to realise its mission and vision. It's an exciting time, and I look forward to enabling our churches and circuits to flourish!" Lisa begins with us on 1st May.



### Born in Song - come and sing!

We are forming a scratch choir from around the new West Midlands District to sing at the launch and welcome service on Saturday 30th August at Walsall Central Hall.

Rehearsals will take place in different locations around the new District.

Sign up at [www.wmmethodists.org.uk](http://www.wmmethodists.org.uk)

## Date for your Diary!

Launch Service and Welcome for Rev'd Rachel Deigh

**Saturday 30th August 3pm at Central Hall in Walsall**

Join us for a service of celebration followed by refreshments.

# Getting involved - Vacancies

There are lots of ways to get involved as we are currently building the new team. The current vacancies are:

- Synod Secretary
- Treasurer
- Resourcing Mission Committee roles
- Manse related roles

More roles will be advertised soon on the website [www.wmmethodists.org.uk](http://www.wmmethodists.org.uk). If you are interested in getting involved but are not sure which role is right for you then drop us an email on [info@wmmethodists.org.uk](mailto:info@wmmethodists.org.uk) and we will arrange a one to one conversation to hear about your passions, interests and skills. There will be lots of ways in which to get involved and we like to work relationally.

## Frequently Asked Questions

*Will District assessments for circuits be any lower?*

The task group undertake that the district element of the circuit assessments will not increase except for inflation. The papers to the Synods include an outline budget for 2024-27 for the general expenses of the district. Mission and Ministry staff are not included in this as they are funded from the DAFs (the main district grant funding pot) rather than the circuit assessments. It is unlikely that assessments will be much lower unless a greater percentage of district costs are met by the DAF. However, if the DAF is used in this way there would then be less money for grants for your mission projects.

## Staying in Touch

We would love to connect with you to share updates and good news stories from around the new district.

### Website

Our new website is now live...

[www.wmmethodists.org.uk](http://www.wmmethodists.org.uk)

You can find information on current vacancies, FAQs and signup to our monthly e-newsletter.

### Looking Ahead: 30 min zoom session

You are warmly invited to our monthly 30 minute zoom sessions preparing for the new West Midlands District. There will be an opportunity to discover more, ask any questions you have, and pray together. Do join us for any of our upcoming sessions:

Tuesday 20th May 8-8:30pm  
Monday 23rd June 9:30-10am  
Thursday 17th July 8-8:30pm

Signup on the website

[www.wmmethodists.org.uk](http://www.wmmethodists.org.uk)

### Social Media

Search for us on Facebook, Instagram or YouTube for good news stories and updates.

# The district exists to:



**Enable** churches to flourish



**Connect** people



**Evolve** with the changing picture of methodism



**Initiate** new work



**Challenge** the status quo

Have a question? Email [info@wmmethodist.org.uk](mailto:info@wmmethodist.org.uk)

FAQs on the website [www.wmmethodists.org.uk](http://www.wmmethodists.org.uk)

## Meet the Team - The Task Group

The task group is leading on setting up the new district:



### Left to Right:

Rev'd Rachel Parkinson (W&S Chair)  
Adam Sanders (B'ham Mission Advisor)  
Rev'd Ken Howcroft (Supernumerary Minister, B'ham)  
Rev'd Novette Headley (B'ham Chair)  
Andrew Beattie (Former W&S Synod Secretary)  
Norma Bryan (Circuit Steward, W&S District)  
Jo Yair (W&S Mission and Ministry Coordinator)  
Helen Woodall (B'ham Synod Secretary)  
Rev'd Phil Warrey (B'ham Deputy Chair)  
Rev'd Margaret Eales (no longer on task group)

### Other members of the task group not present in the photo:

Rev'd Neil Bishop (B'ham District Treasurer)  
Ade Johnson (Development Manager, Coventry Central Hall)  
Rev'd Richard Hall (W&S District)