

Report from the Connexional Local Preachers' Committee 2009

The Connexional Local Preachers' Committee (CLPC) was established in the 1970s by the then Connexional Local Preachers' Secretary. The ethos at the time was to nurture and support preachers and through the years since this has been its joyous responsibility.

CLPC sees its role as promoting excellence in worship and preaching (in the context of local preachers and worship leaders).

The Committee currently meets as a whole once a year, and thereafter works using on-line methods of communication.

These are changing times. Last year the committee, along with other committees in the Connexion, submitted a report of its aims and activity. We recognized the value of revisiting our aims, objectives and accountability. We are also aware that there may be new ways of working.

This year CLPCC met in June..

Matters discussed included

- The role of CLPC and the tasks it had undertaken in the past, The meeting heard of the thinking so far (following the review of all Connexional Committees) on a new broader group that would take in both Authorised and Ordained Ministries, enabling better connections and shared planning. The CLPC gave a warm response to this and encouraged the continuance of work on this exciting development.
- Report of a successful District Officers Day, held in January 2009.
- An update on the meeting of the Chairs of the Assessment Panels.
- Necessitous Local Preachers' Fund.
- A general discussion of concerns around Faith & Worship, continuing Local Preachers training, transfer issues for preachers from other denominations, and some discipline matters. This was a rich and useful discussion which agreed with the overarching idea that the time for a rethink was upon us. This led to a further discussion about how and when consultation would take place around the Connexion with a desire that this was not a rushed process.

The members of the CLPC Committee are:

Terry Ayres, Catherine Hutton, Charlotte Kwarteng, Ros Peedle,
Morag Walder and John Whitehead.

We all appreciate the work and support of the staff in Methodist Church House in supporting the work of local preachers.

Morag Walder