

## **64. Appreciations**

### **The Revd Dr Martyn D Atkins**

In 2015 the Revd Dr Martyn Atkins completes seven years as the Secretary of the Conference and General Secretary of the Methodist Church.

Martyn came to this role with an international reputation as a missiologist, academic, preacher, and liturgist. His previous experience included a variety of different roles in which he utilised his gifts and graces on behalf of the Church. These included circuit ministry, schools chaplaincy, being Principal of Cliff College and being President of the Conference for 2007-8.

In his time as Secretary of the Conference and General Secretary, Martyn has been a key protagonist in amplifying what the Connexion was saying as it grappled with immense changes both inside and outside the Church. An early focus on 'Holiness and Risk' brought together Methodists from around the Connexion to declare together that God was indeed not finished with the Methodist Church and resulted in a renewed calling to mission and discipleship which was to be the main focus for Martyn's leadership. The benefits of this focus have been seen around the Connexion and the Church is stronger, more courageous, more visionary, as a result of hearing God's call through the focus of becoming 'a discipleship movement shaped for mission'.

This impact has been felt throughout global Methodism. Martyn has forged stronger links with a variety of Methodist bodies throughout the world and in particular further developed existing bonds with The United Methodist Church.

Martyn has been a strong and patient leader, helping to guide the Church through difficult choices in the hope of building a better tomorrow for the people called Methodist. His passion and commitment for the Kingdom has opened up new avenues of exploration for the Church whilst nurturing established and valued relationships.

Throughout the last seven years Martyn has given of himself unstintingly to help the Methodist Church to discern and bear witness to its purpose under God, its calling and its priorities.

The Conference expresses its deep gratitude for all that Martyn is and all that he has given, and wishes him and Helen well for the future.

### **\*\*\*RESOLUTION**

**64/1. The Conference expressed its profound gratitude to the Revd Dr Martyn D Atkins for the faithfulness, dedication and effectiveness with which he has exercised his ministry as Secretary of the Conference and General Secretary of the Methodist Church for the last seven years, and wished him well as he continues his ministry and discipleship.**

### **Mr Andrew G Gibbs**

Andrew Gibbs has served as Lead Connexional Treasurer since September 2010. Throughout this time Andrew has given freely of his experience and professionalism. He has brought to all aspects of the role a rigour that has enabled governance and oversight bodies to attend to financial matters with confidence and clarity. Andrew has not only exercised but encouraged in others a commitment to longer term budgeting and stewardship of funds. In doing this he has encouraged a greater awareness of the need to attend to all the assets which the Connexion has at its disposal. Andrew's life-long interest in the world church was demonstrated in his faithful service as treasurer of the Methodist Missionary Society. Such interest was never restricted to the work of the society alone and as connexional treasurer Andrew has consistently encouraged and enabled others to view the wider impact of decisions as well as to take notice of the

responsibilities of living as part of a global family. The whole Connexion has been well-served by Andrew's attention, understanding, commitment and insightful observations.

**\*\*\*RESOLUTION**

- 64/2. The Conference thanked Mr Andrew G Gibbs for his work as connexional Treasurer and wished him well for his future life and ministry.**

**The Revd David Gamble**

David Gamble has served as Chair of the Methodist Council since 2012 and in doing so has brought to the Council his customary humour, clarity of thought and concern for the whole Connexion. David has brought to both the public and the less often seen role of the Chair an awareness of the various challenges and opportunities experienced across the Connexion. His clear understanding of the role of governance bodies within the Methodist Church has been of very great assistance to the Council and other bodies as they fulfil their various responsibilities to enable and oversee the mission of the Methodist Church. His commitment to that mission has been at the forefront of his work and he has ensured that awareness of local Methodist experience is consistently set alongside the work of connexional bodies. In all of this David has offered support and encouragement to members and officers of the Council, exercising a pastoral ministry and placing his skills at the service of the whole Church.

**\*\*\*RESOLUTION**

- 64/3. The Conference thanked the Revd David Gamble for his work as chair of the Methodist Council and wished him well for his future life and ministry.**