



The Moving Stories Project, which concludes in August of this year, focused on the power of storytelling to alter the negative perceptions of migration in the country. It aimed to connect stories of migration to the Christian and Methodist story, whereby beginning to shift the prevailing narrative of migration from the negative to the positive. “Woven”, the theme being explored by the District Team for 2019-2021, centres similarly on the power of storytelling to transform: in this instance, the story of our faith. This is in concert with both the Connexional theme, the “Year of Testimony”, and the Presidential theme of “What’s the Story?”.

We are all inherently story-tellers. Sharing stories is how we live, laugh and cry, it’s how we connect authentically with community and how we see depth in relationship. “God’s story. Our story. Every story” speaks to that part of us: reminding us that we’ve been brought by grace into God’s great story and woven mercifully into His narrative. It also reminds us of Jesus’ call to evangelism and discipleship, thus interweaving our lives with communities around us, so that they too may experience and share God’s story. The project wants to see increased confidence and ownership of the beautiful weaving of our stories into God’s story in the District; and to see that story shared confidently within and beyond our church walls, until it impacts every story.

Practically, the project the District Office will manage some aspects of the project such as commissioning research into evangelism in District’s local churches and circuits; the creation of a radio series showcasing faith stories; a series of filmed testimonies from the workplace to resource local churches; the creation of bible studies and preaching resources and the facilitation of conferences¹. However, the vision is not that project takes a heavily centralised approach. Instead, the vision of the project is a bottom-up one, to stimulate local ownership of “Woven” in ways that are contextually appropriate. Therefore, partnering with local churches, the project seeks to equip and resource local churches to more confidently and more regularly weave themselves into their communities to share their lives, their church buildings and their story of God.

¹ The listed aspects of the project are all provisional.