



Methodist Church House  
25 Marylebone Road  
London  
NW1 5JR

17<sup>th</sup> December 2020

**To:** All Ministers and Probationers Stationed in the Active Work and All District,  
Circuit and Church Treasurers

**WELCOME TO OUR DECEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER**

Dear Friends,

We are distributing the link to this newsletter by e-mail to all Ministers, Probationers, District, Circuit and Church Treasurers.

Firstly, we would like to thank all of the church treasurers who provided their up to date contact details. The response to the request was overwhelming and we have now updated the Connexional database accordingly. Please feel free to forward this newsletter to others who you think may find it useful.

Despite Methodist Church House currently being closed, we are still contactable by email and our usual telephone numbers. We are receiving post on an infrequent basis, however, we encourage the use of email and phone as much as possible.

On behalf of all the Connexional Finance Team can I thank you for all you do to support us through the year and wish you every blessing for a Happy Christmas.

Yours faithfully,



Matt Tattersall  
Director of Finance & Resources

### Charity Registration

The Charity Commission has confirmed that the exemption from registration that applies to Methodist charities with gross income below £100,000 will be extended to the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2031. This is to allow time for the Charity Commission to implement a phased approach to charity registration. More details on this are expected in the first half of 2021 and the Methodist Church website will continue to be updated as more information is received. Please see the link below for further details:

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/finance/charity-registration/>

### Charity Number

Whilst not having to register with the Charity Commission has its benefits, it also means many churches do not have their own charity registration number. We would like to remind all churches in this position that they must not quote the Methodist Church in Great Britain charity number, nor their circuit's charity number. This is particularly true when seeking to open bank accounts. We have recently been made aware of a decision of the Co-op bank to only accept applications for its Community Bank Account from registered charities. This is not an example of the 'Connexion' being difficult, but is simply a fact of charity law and the policies of individual banks. Further information on charity registration numbers is available on the link below:

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/finance/charity-registration/>

### Fraud

Please stay vigilant! Below is an email we recently received.

*I have been asked to contact you with regards to an incident of fraud which has resulted in us paying a significant amount of money into a bogus bank account. We are in the final stages of a refurbishment project and instructed the bank to pay an invoice to what we thought was the correct account. It has since transpired that someone has fraudulently piggy backed (if that's the correct term) onto one of the emails which came from the construction company, via another person's email who was copied in. When I've clicked reply, all subsequent email conversations that I thought I was having with the construction company have actually been with this third party. We contacted the bank as soon as we were made aware that the construction company hadn't received the money and are waiting to hear back from them. We have also registered the incident with the Action Fraud Police. The construction company will also be registering an incident of identity theft with them.*

We sent out a letter about fraud in October. If you have not seen it, please click the link below

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/media/19352/fraud-warning-letter-to-all-methodist-treasurers.pdf>

### **The Real Living Wage**

A resolution was passed at the 2015 Conference that the implementation of the Living Wage is now mandatory in all but the most extreme and exceptional circumstances, and that all outstanding exceptions must continue to be reviewed by the appropriate District Policy Committee. The Living Wage Foundation have published the latest real living wage and this is £10.85 an hour for those that live in London and £9.50 per hour for those that live elsewhere the UK. These rates must be implemented by April 2021. Please see the link below for further details.

<https://www.livingwage.org.uk/what-real-living-wage>

### **Association of Church Accountants and Treasurers (ACAT)**

ACAT held their first 'virtual' conference back in October. We hope many of you were able to participate in some of the sessions they provided. For any of you who are not yet aware, the Connexion pays a block subscription so that every Methodist Church, Circuit and District can have free membership of ACAT. If you have not yet signed up, please find more details at:

[ACAT - Block Member Information](#)

### **Coronavirus Update**

The pandemic continues to affect us all in so many ways and church finances are no less an issue. In October, the Methodist Council approved a budget for the Connexional Team that contained a significant cut in expenditure. We are also looking at what this means for the subsequent years and how that may or may not impact on the District Assessment.

However, we realise that the District Assessment is just one element of the budgets of individual churches and circuits. We have heard how many churches have been blessed by the generosity of their congregations who have found themselves with extra disposable income that they could donate. Equally, we hear of many churches whose members have lost jobs and/or income, or where other sources of funding (such as lettings) have dried up. Across the country, the total level of resources held in the Central Finance Board deposit fund are sufficient to maintain current levels of expenditure for the next 2-3 years, irrespective of income levels. Consequently, our guidance remains that if a church is facing financial pressures that it is unable to manage it should speak to the circuit. Where circuits are in that position they should speak to their district. Any districts that are struggling should contact the Director of Finance & Resources.

At the annual meeting of District Treasurers in October we heard a number of examples where circuits and districts are facilitating the distribution of resources from churches and circuits that have relatively strong finances to those that are less fortunate. This is truly the spirit of connexionalism in action.

## Payroll

Jane Gasengayire - Payroll Manager is now on Maternity leave. We have welcomed Brian Power to the team who will be covering as Interim Payroll Manager. Brian's contact details are:

**Direct Line: +44 (0) 20 7467 5154**

**Email: [Powerb@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:Powerb@methodistchurch.org.uk)**

## Stipends, Grants and Allowances

The proposed standard stipend for 2021/22 has been calculated as £25,824 an increase of 1.16%.

## Computers for Ministry

The Computers for Ministry (CfM) Allowance for 2021/22 will be £171 to be paid with the October 2021 stipend. It is payable to all ministers except those whose computing facilities are provided at their place of work. The allowance is non-pensionable and subject to tax and National Insurance.

Student ministers entering training are eligible to receive a grant equal to four times the annual CfM Allowance. They will then be eligible to receive the annual allowance once they begin ministry.

## Ministers Pay Dates January 2021 to December 2021

January 2021	Thursday 31st December 2020
February 2021	Monday 1st February 2021
March 2021	Monday 1st March 2021
April 2021	Thursday 1st April 2021
May 2021	Friday 30th April 2021
June 2021	Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> June 2021
July 2021	Thursday 1st July 2021
August 2021	Friday 30th July 2021
September 2021	Wednesday 1st September 2021
October 2021	Friday 1st October 2021
November 2021	Monday 1st November 2020
December 2021	Wednesday 1st December 2021
January 2022	Friday 31st December 2021

### Contacting the Finance Team

Please do not hesitate to contact the Payroll Team with any payroll related queries:

For the Ministers payroll and benefits please e-mail [stipends@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:stipends@methodistchurch.org.uk)

For the lay payroll please e-mail [payrollbureau@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:payrollbureau@methodistchurch.org.uk)

For ministerial grants please email [ministerial.grants@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:ministerial.grants@methodistchurch.org.uk)

For the Gift Aid bureau please email [giftaid@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:giftaid@methodistchurch.org.uk)

Additionally, the contact details for individual members of the Finance team can be found on the Finance page of the Methodist Church website at:

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-ministers-and-office-holders/finance/contact-the-finance-office/>

If you don't know who you need to speak to then please contact Lesley Roberts our Senior Administrator on 0207 467 5264 or [RobertsL@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:RobertsL@methodistchurch.org.uk)

