

51. Designations for Appointment of District Chairs and the Warden of the Methodist Diaconal Order

***RESOLUTIONS

- 51/1. The Conference designates for appointment the Revd Dr Janet E Corlett as Chair for the Isle of Man District for a period of six years from 1 September 2021.
- 51/2. The Conference designates for appointment the Revd Daniel R Haylett as Chair for the Plymouth and Exeter District for a period of two years from 1 September 2022.
- 51/3. The Conference designates for appointment the Revd Novette S Headley as Chair for the Birmingham District for a period of three years from 1 September 2022.

The following resolutions require a majority of 75%.

- 51/4. The Conference designates for appointment the Revd Dr David Chapman as Chair for the Bedfordshire, Essex and Hertfordshire District for a further period of five years from 1 September 2022.
- 51/5. The Conference designates for appointment the Revd Andrew de Ville as Chair for the Southampton District for a further period of two years from 1 September 2022.
- 51/6. The Conference designates for appointment the Revd Dr Andrew J Lunn as Chair for the Manchester and Stockport District for a further period of five years from 1 September 2021.
- 51/7. The Conference designates for appointment the Revd Stephen J Lindridge as Chair for the Newcastle upon Tyne District for a further period of five years from 1 September 2021.
- 51/8. The Conference designates for appointment the Revd Loraine N Mellor as Chair for the Nottingham and Derby District for a further period of one year from 1 September 2021.
- 51/9. The Conference designates for appointment the Revd Rachel E Parkinson as Chair for the Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District for a further period of three years from 1 September 2022.
- 51/10. The Conference designates for appointment the Revd Dr Jonathan H Pye as Chair for the Bristol District for a further period of three years from 1 September 2021.

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- 51/11. The Conference designates for appointment the Revd Bruce Thompson as Chair for the Lincolnshire District for a further period of three years from 1 September 2022.**
- 51/12. The Conference designates for appointment the Revd Graham Thompson as Chair for the Plymouth and Exeter District for a further period of one year from 1 September 2021.**
- 51/13. The Conference designates for appointment Deacon Karen McBride as Warden of the Methodist Diaconal Order for a further period of four years from 1 September 2022.**

The following resolutions require a simple majority.

- 51/14. The Conference designates for appointment the Revd Graham Thompson as Chair for the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly District, in addition to the Plymouth and Exeter District, for one year from 1 September 2021.**
- 51/15. The Conference designates for appointment the Revd Steven J Wild as Chair for the Plymouth and Exeter District, in addition to the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly District, for one year from 1 September 2021.**

Reasoned Statements

The Revd Dr Janet Corlett

Janet Corlett is a presbyter in the North Kirklees and Morley Circuit. She has extensive ministerial experience having served in the London (Forest) Circuit and in Southwark and Deptford, as well as in her current appointment; she has also served as a mission partner in the Utila/ North Coast Circuit of the Belize/ Honduras District of the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and Americas. Her academic interests and professional background before entering the ministry were in agricultural science which gives her a keen interest in rural life, systems of agriculture, and sustainable ecology.

Having been born and brought up on the island, Dr Corlett brings back to the Isle of Man a deep spirituality and an approach to ministry which is grounded in prayer. She has extensive ecumenical experience, serving as the Methodist Church in Britain's representative to the World Council of Churches. She is a pastor and preacher who leads worship that is widely accessible in a variety of styles; she is someone who works with people within and outside the church in a considered and reflective way to share, as she puts it, 'good news with legs'.

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The Synod recommends to the Conference that the Revd Dr Janet Corlett is appointed to serve as Chair for the Isle of Man District for a period of six years from 1 September 2021.

The Revd Daniel Haylett

Daniel Haylett is currently the Superintendent of the Enfield Circuit. In 14 years of presbyteral ministry, he has also served in the Grimsby and Cleethorpes and Hants-Surrey Borders Circuits and will bring to the Plymouth and Exeter District a wide variety of experience in ministry. He is a collaborative leader with a proven record in developing the gifts of others in ministry and commitment to supervision for his lay and ordained colleagues.

Mr Haylett has a deep understanding of the Methodist Church and is currently engaged in doctoral studies on Wesleyan theology. He understands the church in a global context and is committed to working in partnership with the World Church. At a time of transition in the Connexion and the District, Mr Haylett brings experience of enabling churches and members to navigate through the consequences of decline, as well as the ability to see new opportunities. He will offer to the District vision and energy, considerable administrative gifts, theological wisdom, and a pastoral heart.

The Synod recommends to the Conference that the Revd Daniel R Haylett is appointed to serve as Chair for the Plymouth and Exeter District for a period of two years from 1 September 2022.

The Revd Novette Headley

Novette Headley is Superintendent of the Leicester (West) Circuit. Her 28 years of presbyteral ministry includes service in the London District and the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and Americas before serving ten years in the Birmingham (West) Circuit. She is currently the Northampton District's representative on the Methodist Council. Ms Headley was born and brought up in the Birmingham Elmdon circuit. From 2009-14 she served as Birmingham District's Presbyteral Synod Secretary and as part of the District Leadership Team.

Her pastoral ministry has seen her supervise probationers and ministers of other conferences and churches and guide congregations through critical periods of development and change. As the Secretary of the Belonging Together Ministers' Group she has demonstrated her skills in enabling a diverse gathering of ministers identify and carry through its aims and actions.

Ms Headley has excellent administrative skills; she is a team player who encourages others in their giftings; she offers visionary and strategic leadership to the churches of

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her circuit. The nomination panel was delighted to hear of her prayerful response to the promptings of those who have encouraged her to offer for a senior leadership role, was impressed by her passion for social justice and her theologically grounded understanding of the challenges that face the District.

The Synod recommends to the Conference that the Revd Novette Headley is appointed as Chair for the Birmingham District for a period of three years from 1 September 2022.

The Revd Dr David Chapman

David Chapman has been Chair of the Bedfordshire, Essex, Hertfordshire District since 2016. He is valued as being approachable, caring, considerate and understanding, with 'an air of gentle authority which earns respect'. He is seen as consistently offering wise, helpful, and practical reflections, giving thoughtful advice without dictating. He is seen to be knowledgeable with good insight into the complexities of the kind of issues that arise in circuits. Dr Chapman is pastorally effective, dealing with difficult conversations firmly, clearly and fairly.

His considered approach to leadership in this role is how the District can better serve the Circuits - resourcing and supporting Circuits, recognising the diversity within the District. This seems to be understood and appreciated by respondents, especially Superintendents. He demonstrates wide and deep knowledge of ecumenism across the spectrum and has provided guidance and support in a number of difficult ecumenical situations. He is also seen as an excellent ambassador for the Methodist Church.

Dr Chapman is described as professional, caring, a listener and deep thinker with a positive and genuine manner as well as a good sense of humour. He is seen as a man of practical and real faith. He prepares well for meetings and chairs in a fair but firm way.

The Synod recommends to the Conference that the Revd Dr David Chapman is appointed as Chair for the Bedfordshire, Essex and Hertfordshire District for a further period of five years from 1 September 2022.

The Revd Andrew de Ville

Andrew de Ville has been Chair of the Southampton District since 1 March 2020. Twenty-three days later the country went into an unprecedented lockdown because of the Coronavirus pandemic. His response was immediate and supportive across the whole District. He has shown himself to be a non-anxious presence with a message of hope.

Mr de Ville's initial appointment was very deliberately for a period of two and a half years to August 2022 to allow time for a District Review, regional conversations, and for the work

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on Oversight and Trusteeship to be undertaken. Inevitably, because of the pandemic this work has not progressed at the anticipated speed and there are still many strands of work to come to fruition.

In the midst of the pandemic, he has guided the District and asked searching questions about the future; the long haul – new ways of being and doing; the outlook – planning despite further lockdowns; leadership when you don't know where you are going. His communication has demonstrated a real compassion and understanding, ensuring that process is followed with speed, with clarity and careful analysis, and always doing what he says he will do. He is valued enormously without reservation.

The Synod recommends to the Conference that the Revd Andrew de Ville is appointed as Chair for the Southampton District for a further period of two years from 1 September 2022.

The Revd Dr Andrew Lunn

Andrew Lunn has been Chair of the Manchester and Stockport District since 2015.

The District values the strong and strategic leadership that Dr Lunn offers as District Chair. The quality and depth of his preaching and leading of worship is widely appreciated, along with a strong sense of mission. It is noted that he promotes, supports and guides the implementation of new initiatives, discerning and guiding where and when change is needed. He offers strong and skilled pastoral support, within and beyond the District. He works hard to promote and maintain ecumenical links.

A reappointment of Dr Lunn as District Chair would provide much-needed continuity of leadership in these times of post-COVID uncertainty alongside potential changes to Methodist structures.

The Synod recommends to the Conference that the Revd Dr Andrew Lunn is appointed as Chair for the Manchester and Stockport District for a further period of five years from 1 September 2021.

The Revd Stephen Lindridge

Stephen Lindridge has been Chair of the Newcastle District since 2015 and during that time has promoted the development of the new District Mission Plan and the restructuring of district committees and teams to facilitate its implementation. The District would benefit from his continued leadership as together it seeks to develop further a focus on mission which will permeate the District. Mr Lindridge's style of leadership is permission-giving and supportive of risk-taking. He also contributes effectively to regional structures and works confidently with ecumenical partners.

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Mr Lindridge is undoubtedly a people person who is extremely approachable with a heart for pastoral care. His approach is full of wisdom and grace and he is a supporter and encourager of others, particularly of young people and those who work with them. His confidence in God's plan for the District is infectious. His preaching and leading of worship are very much valued and Synods are inspirational, meaningful and challenging. His ministry is much appreciated across the District.

The Synod recommends to the Conference that the Revd Stephen Lindridge is appointed as Chair for the Newcastle upon Tyne District for a further period of five years from 1 September 2021.

The Revd Loraine Mellor

Loraine Mellor has been Chair of the Nottingham and Derby District since 2010. People describe her as a breath of fresh air, very down to earth, and with a good sense of humour. She has proved herself to be a strong leader, clear-thinking and unafraid to confront difficult issues, and with a willingness to question the way that things are normally done. Conversations are continuing in the region and are at a crucial stage when Mrs Mellor's leadership and experience is required in this time of transition. The pandemic and lockdown has necessitated a different form of leadership which she has provided. Mission and evangelism is a priority for Mrs Mellor, and she encourages and supports this throughout the District and this is reflected in the mission plan and policy. She has continued to encourage churches and Circuits to take risks and use new methods for the sake of the gospel. The pastoral care that Mrs Mellor offers is widely appreciated. She has served the Connexion in a number of capacities, including as President of the Conference (2017-2018) and presently serves as Chair of the Conference Business Committee and Chair of Cliff College Committee. Mrs Mellor's ecumenical input into initiatives such as Thy Kingdom Come has been greatly appreciated by ecumenical partners across the District.

The Synod recommends to the Conference that the Revd Loraine Mellor is appointed as Chair for the Nottingham and Derby District for a further period of one year from 1 September 2021.

The Revd Rachel Parkinson

Rachel Parkinson has been Chair of the Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District since 2016. She is an inspirational leader, having particular strengths in pastoral care. She offers great support to the Superintendents and others who seek her help. Mrs Parkinson is very creative, in worship, meetings and dealings with people. She has immense energy and commitment to the work of bringing the good news to new people as well as nurturing existing communities. She is a strategic thinker, something the District feels

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is vital for the future. Her contribution in oversight to The Queens Foundation is much valued too, as is the synergetic relationship with the Birmingham Chair, and interfaith and ecumenical groups.

The Synod recommends to the Conference that the Revd Rachel Parkinson is appointed as Chair for the Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District for a further period of three years from 1 September 2022.

The Revd Dr Jonathan H Pye

Jonathan Pye has been Chair of the Bristol District since 2015. He is well known throughout the District, having served in a circuit appointment and college appointment previously. This means he brings a wealth of knowledge and insight to the life of the District. He is widely appreciated for his pastoral care and for his preaching. He brings a strong academic ability to the role of Chair which people value, and his ability to use that academic background in an understandable way for church and non church is noted.

He brings a strong lead in ecumenical matters with leaders of other churches in the area expressing a deep appreciation for his work and collegueship. This ecumenical strength is also expressed in his work at connexional level. Dr Pye brings an openness and great wisdom to his role as Chair as he encourages working together.

The Synod recommends to the Conference that the Revd Dr Jonathan Pye is appointed to serve as Chair for the Bristol District for a further period of three years from 1 September 2021.

The Revd Bruce Thompson

Bruce Thompson has been Chair of the Lincolnshire District since 2011. The present context of pandemic and an overarching review of trusteeship across the Connexion has emphasised the importance of continuity in leadership and strong local representation. The District appreciates the gifts and skills that Mr Thompson brings to the role of District Chair, which benefit the District and its mission. He is seen as having a loud, clear voice for God, Methodism and Lincolnshire. He is valued for his work with the media on matters of religious belief, both Christian and interfaith. He remains committed to building on past successes and to developing new opportunities for outreach and mission with enthusiasm and energy.

The Synod recommends to the Conference that the Revd Bruce Thompson is appointed as Chair for the Lincolnshire District for a further period of three years from 1 September 2021.

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The Revd Graham Thompson

Graham Thompson has served as Chair of the Plymouth and Exeter District since 2014. Immediately prior to this he served as Chair of the East Anglia District for 11 years. Graham's leadership of the District has been very well received. His pastoral care of both people and church communities across the District has been very effective.

Preaching is important to Graham and he seeks to preach, teach, encourage and inspire. He believes pastoral care is of primary importance and is keen to offer hospitality, whenever possible.

Graham is particularly concerned for the rural church and is knowledgeable about rural issues. He is equally aware of the different challenges posed in our larger centres of population. He is committed to ecumenism and relates well to other Church Leaders. He has recognised the challenges posed by a large geographical area working across many different boundaries and most recently impacted by the COVID pandemic.

Graham has proven ability in strategic planning and has a collaborative leadership style. He seeks to develop clear policies that will provide vision and act as foundations for the effective administration of the District. He believes that building relationships is key to the integration of Circuits into the life of the District and Connexion. He gives importance to building relationships between Circuits, the Synod and District Officers so that all may share in that feeling of connectedness which is a distinctive feature of our denomination.

The mission of the church is important to Graham and he has worked with others to produce a strategy for nurturing disciples which embraces *Christian Communities in Conversation*, a project supported by a connexional grant. Graham, above all, is a person of prayer and brings a sensitive but firm, warm, caring, listening ear to all who are in need.

The Synod recommends to the Conference that the Revd Graham Thompson is appointed as Chair for the Plymouth and Exeter District for a further year from 1 September 2021.

Deacon Karen McBride

Karen McBride has been Warden of the Order since 2016. Her kindness, wisdom, insight and depth of spirituality have been apparent and appreciated during that time. In a period of change, the Warden has worked with others to integrate some of the MDO's processes of discernment and oversight with other bodies in the Connexion and to develop excellent working relationships with District Chairs and connexional officers. The context of this work has been the Conference report *The Theology and Ecclesiology Underpinning the*

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Diaconate and the Methodist Diaconal Order. The Warden's theological gifts have been appreciated in the process of the writing and the implementation of that report. This is work that needs to continue and the Convocation believes that Karen McBride is the right person to take this forward.

The Convocation recommends to the Conference that Deacon Karen McBride is appointed as Warden of the Methodist Diaconal Order for a further period of four years from 1 September 2022.

The Revds Graham Thompson and Steven Wild

Steven Wild and Graham Thompson are increasingly working more closely and using their distinctive gifts across the two Districts would have advantages for all. Steven Wild offers a primary focus on mission, including the desire to motivate more missionaries. He also offers a ministry of preaching and teaching that is big-hearted and all-inclusive. Graham Thompson offers a focus on ministry that includes a desire to make our structures work effectively for the building up of God's Kingdom. He also offers administrative and supervision skills that are wise and insightful.

This recommendation comes at a time when the wider South West Region is reviewing its governance structures and trying to work out what oversight might mean in a context that is different from the one experienced when the current structures were first implemented in 1957. The proposal provides opportunity to reflect on mission and ministry across a wider area and to test out the obstacles - perceived or real - caused by the geography of the region.

It is not intended that any precedent be set with regard to future appointments. However, this proposal will take effect in the same year that those designated to serve as District Chairs in the region will be in a 'shadow year'. Gaining some knowledge and/or experience of another District during 2021-22 should help both the induction process and with ways of working in the future.

The Plymouth and Exeter and Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly Synods recommend to the Conference that the Revds Graham Thompson and Steven Wild are both appointed to serve both Districts for the connexional year 2021/2022.