

## District executive

**The latest meeting of the district executive dealt with a long agenda. RUTH BEMROSE, secretary to the executive, has the details.**

### Two into one

At the beginning of its June meeting, the district executive was pleased to learn that Paul Taylor, the district's training and development officer, had been appointed to the full-time district post of director of training and development. In this new role, Paul will combine the work of both district development enabler and co-ordinating training officer. Paul takes up his position on 1 September, and this development is the result of wider changes in Methodist Church structures and jobs nationally.

### FX gets database

The district executive decided to set up a database of *Fresh Expressions (FX)* across the district.

### Recommendations to synod

A recommendation from the district executive will be taken to the September synod for the district plus its circuits and churches to be encouraged to adopt connexional team policies on disciplinary, dismissal and grievance procedures.

The executive agreed to do further work on two other recommendations, hopefully to go to the September synod. One will relate to property schemes and the planned introduction of a "consents process" to replace the existing approvals process. The other recommendation will be for synod to set up a small, time-limited group to work across the district to assist circuits explore their role, to encourage dialogue between circuits, and to make recommendations about possible boundary changes.

### Gap-year placement

Having heard about the connexional youth participation strategy, the executive decided that the district would offer to become part of a pilot scheme during 2008/09, in which a young person from the district would spend part of a gap year in a placement with a youth project in the district.

# District News

The Methodist Church  
Northampton District  
August 2008

## Methodist Youth Conference comes to town

China may already have hosted the Olympic Games but our Methodist district - albeit working to a smaller budget than Beijing- is still eagerly awaiting the November arrival of the Methodist Youth Conference at the King's Park Conference Centre in Northampton.

The youth conference is the annual event when young people from the Methodist Church meet and debate the issues to which they feel the church should be responding. Many of these issues are then presented to and discussed at the Methodist Conference in the following July.

At the recent 2008 Methodist Conference, for example, the youth conference brought resolutions about Burma, the supply of Bibles to new Christians, issues relating to youth violence, and local preacher training for young people.

Each district can send two representatives to the youth conference, and synods make their selections each September. Nomination forms have already been sent out to all synod representatives for this year's elections. Other applications are invited from individual young people. Numbers depend on the capacity of each youth conference venue.

The 2008 Methodist Youth Conference runs from Friday 21 to Sunday 23 November. There is space for 150 young people at King's Park. District representatives will take up sixty of these places. The remaining 90 places will be allocated on a first-come-first-served basis. More details and booking forms are available at [www.youthconference.co.uk](http://www.youthconference.co.uk). Although district representatives have to be members of the Methodist Church, others do not.

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*Methodist Youth Conference (contd)*

Many young people who attend the Methodist Youth Conference find it to be a life-changing event. If you know of those who could benefit from attending, please encourage them to do so. Churches and circuits are sometimes keen to help meet all or part of the costs involved.

This year, because the conference is being held in our district, there is a further opportunity for local young people to experience part, if not all, of the event. The youth conference's Sunday morning worship will be open to all. The venue is the Benham Sport's Arena next to King's Park, and the service will begin at 10.30 a.m. Mike Lewis, our district youth officer, will lead the service along with some of the young people who attended the young leaders of worship course, held in June. The organisers hope the service will be a fantastic time of worship. Please circulate this information as widely as possible, and encourage people to attend.

***Fresh Expressions news***  
**By Tim Woolley, district director of mission**

**FX network planned**

The first district *Fresh Expressions (FX)* consultation took place at Roade on the last day of July. *FX* practitioners and interested 'explorers' came from all over the district to share stories, learn of connexional developments and training opportunities, and begin the task of establishing a district *FX* network for mutual support and encouragement. If you were unable to get to the consultation but would like to be kept in touch, please let me know by email: [t.r.woolley.00@cantabgold.net](mailto:t.r.woolley.00@cantabgold.net).

**Building the Kingdom**

There is a considerable amount of new house building going on across the district despite the otherwise general slow down in the property market. In order to gauge the extent of what is happening, and the response of

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*Fresh Expressions news contd*

churches and circuits to it, and to explore the opportunities for sharing good practice, a short questionnaire has been emailed to superintendent ministers. From the results of this, it is hoped that encouraging stories of mission in new communities will emerge.

***FX small grants available***

Are you exploring "fresh ways of being church"? Are you looking to reach beyond your current congregation? Do you have some ideas of what you could do? Do you need a cash injection to get started?

If the answer is "Yes" to all of these questions then this is for you.

The district has grants of up to £500 available if you are prepared to do five things:

- match fund your grant;
- arrange to meet Paul Taylor (director of training and development) or Tim Woolley, (director of mission) to discuss your idea;
- explain how this encourages "fresh ways of being church";
- demonstrate how this enables you to reach beyond your current worshipping congregation;
- in one-year's time, let us know how you are getting on.

The next steps:

- ensure you have enough funding to match your bid;
- contact Paul Taylor ([northamptondo@btinternet.com](mailto:northamptondo@btinternet.com)) or Tim Woolley ([t.r.woolley.00@cantabgold.net](mailto:t.r.woolley.00@cantabgold.net));
- following this meeting, make your application.

Paul and Tim are looking forward to hearing from interested people, so do not hesitate to contact them for more details or to make an appointment.