



www.methodistdistrict23.org.uk

The **Methodist** Church  
Northampton District

Autumn 2007



## WORD IN TIME: BIBLE STUDY

*Word In Time* is a daily Bible study starting on Sunday 2 September 2007 which will use the readings set in **The Methodist Prayer Handbook: All Things In Christ**. Sundays have a blog attached to the commentary. Users can post their own comments and thoughts on the featured passage.

### How will the studies work?

*Word In Time* is designed to be a tool which help readers make sense of the Bible. Each page features a Bible reading with explanations, commentary, thoughts and questions, which are designed to help and empower the reader to apply the Bible to their own life and the social and political context in which they live.

### Why?

*Word in Time* is an opportunity to bring together the Methodist Connexion, the 40,000 plus readers of the Methodist Prayer Handbook and individual web-users who are seeking to add a spiritual element to their everyday 'web life'.

We hope *Word in Time* will help to put the Bible back at the centre of our daily lives.

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## CHANGES TO THE CONNEXIONAL TEAM

At the 2007 Methodist Conference a number of changes were agreed, as part of the *Team Focus* process, ie. the restructuring of the Connexional Team. Some of these changes will have a direct impact on how training is co-ordinated in the District.

On the 31st August 2008 the Training & Development Officer Scheme will cease and will be replaced by two new posts:

**District Development Enabler (DDE)** who will be based within the District and responsible for encouraging and enabling development within local churches and circuits. This work will focus on the *Priorities for the Methodist Church* and a new report, *Mapping the Way Forward: Regrouping for Mission*, which was adopted by the Methodist Conference 2007. This report encourages the church to explore the role and structure of the circuit, which is described as the primary unit of mission.

**Training Officers (TO)** will be based within five training networks in England and will be responsible for encouraging and enabling learning for the whole people of God - both lay and ordained.

Of the five regions in England we will look to three of them as a District: South East (focused on Cambridge); South West (focused on Bristol); Midlands (focused on Birmingham). Each region will employ two TOs who will work across the region, co-ordinating a range of training and learning opportunities. The TOs with whom individual circuits will relate will depend on the location of that particular circuit and the most appropriate region it would look to for its training.

There is still much to be resolved to enable this structure to be in place by September 2008. Alison and I are already engaged in conversations with the three regions we will be working with and emphasising the particular needs of the Northampton District. We will keep you updated as these conversations progress.

Paul Taylor (District TDO)

### *Inside this issue ...*

- ◀ Enliven
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- ◀ Crossways: 'Opening Doors for You!'



... a collaborative, ecumenical youth ministry training course run around Northamptonshire. During 2007/08, you can feel free to attend whichever sessions seem to be most appropriate for you as an individual or as a group from your local church.

Events coming up ...

#### First Aid

Weds 17 Oct 07 in Daventry

#### Worship & Young People

Sat 17 Nov 07 in Wellingborough

#### Prayer & Young People

Tues 12 Feb 08

#### Creative Arts in Youth Work

Sat 1 Mar 08

#### Residentials, Ideas and Delivery

Mon 7 Apr 08 in Yardley Hastings

For more details and to book a place



Resourcing Christian Youthwork Training

#### 'Trying to be a Christian'

*The contexts of faith and identity development of young people*

A conference for all who are involved in training volunteer youth workers in churches

Thursday 24th to Friday 25th January 2008  
Luther King House, Manchester

[www.spectrumonline.org.uk](http://www.spectrumonline.org.uk)

#### Paul Taylor,

Training & Development Officer

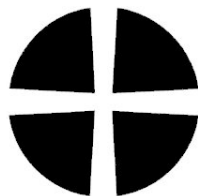
12 Ryeburn Way

Wellingborough

Northants, NN8 3AH

07779 241087

[northamptondo@btinternet.com](mailto:northamptondo@btinternet.com)



## Saying 'Yes' to God District Vocations Day

Saturday 14th June 2008 from 10.00am

- ? Do you feel God is calling you to something more?
- ? Got that nagging feeling but don't know what to do?
- ? Know God wants more ... but not sure what?
- ? Just need some space to listen?

If you answer 'Yes' to any of these then this day might be for you

#### Programme:

There will be resources available and people to talk to throughout the day and at specific times workshops on particular topics. The resources will support much of the information outlined in the *Saying 'Yes' to God: Vocations in the Methodist Church* leaflet. If one isn't available in your circuit please contact Paul Taylor (details below).



... the URCs Conference and Retreat Centre located in the village of Yardley Hastings in Northamptonshire offers its programme, 'Opening Doors for You!'

#### Travelling Together

*Friday 21st - Sunday 23rd September (residential)*

An opportunity to explore and strengthen your personal spiritual journey.

#### Technoday

*Thursday 27th September 2007 (one day)*

Would you like to make the most of new technology in your church activities? Are you wanting to experiment with the latest equipment and enhance your services, youth group meetings, family gatherings etc?

#### Crafty Card Making

*Friday 28th - Sunday 30th September 2007 (residential or indiv sessions)*

Learn new skills and make cards for all occasions. Come along for the whole weekend or book in for just a session.

#### Barefoot Bible Study: People to People.

*Friday 26th - Sunday 28th October 2007 (residential)*

A creative arts weekend using stories and parables in contact with Jesus and each other. Barefoot Bible Study (known internationally as Bibliodrama) is all about a group's encounter with biblical texts. Groups read the texts together, the members make connections with their own life-experience, and then either present the text dramatically or offer some other form of artistic presentation.

#### Field, Folk and Faith

*Saturday 10th November 2007 (one day)*

A day to help rural Christians to understand more deeply and engage more effectively, in their communities.

More details:

01604 696307

[www.crosswayscentre.org.uk](http://www.crosswayscentre.org.uk)