

50. Designations for Appointment of District Chairs

*****RESOLUTIONS**

- 50/1. The Conference designated for appointment the Revd Richard M Andrew as Chair for the Darlington District for a period of six years from 1 September 2018.**
- 50/2. The Conference designated for appointment the Revd Helen R Kirk as Chair for the Chester and Stoke-on-Trent District for a period of six years from 1 September 2019.**
- 50/3. The Conference designated for appointment the Revd Kerry W Tankard as Chair for the Yorkshire West District for a period of six years from 1 September 2019.**

The following resolutions require a majority of 75%.

- 50/4. The Conference designated for appointment the Revd Paul H Davis as Chair for the Lancashire District for a further period of three years from 1 September 2019.**
- 50/5. The Conference designated for appointment the Revd Ian Howarth as Chair for the Birmingham District for a further period of three years from 1 September 2019.**
- 50/6. The Conference designated for appointment the Revd Dr Jennifer A Hurd as Chair for Synod Cymru for a further period of five years from 1 September 2019.**
- 50/7. The Conference designated for appointment the Revd Steven J Wild as Chair for the Cornwall District for a further period of three years from 1 September 2019.**
- 50/8. The Conference designated for appointment the Revd S Mark Slaney as Chair for the Scotland and Shetland Districts for a period of six years from 1 September 2019.**

Reasoned Statements

The Revd Richard M Andrew

After a period of working in industry and training at Cambridge, Richard Andrew served in the Sheffield Ecclesall Circuit (1995-2002) and was the Director of the York Institute for Community Theology (2002-2013) before joining the Connexional Team as the Director of Learning and Development Pathways (2013 -present).

Throughout his various roles, Richard has been appreciated for the way in which he has inspired 'big picture' thinking and navigated significant change with pastoral sensitivity. He is particularly committed to nurturing vocations among all people, and has a track record of developing ways to support both lay and ordained disciples through vocational exploration. His passion for encouraging participation has played a significant role in the successful development of 3Generate over recent years. Richard's ability to offer strategic and intentional leadership over a broad range of ministry areas will be particularly welcomed in the Darlington District, and is a gift to the whole Connexion.

Along with his experience of collaborative leadership in a variety of Methodist contexts, Richard has worked in ecumenical and public contexts, and offers a confident voice to represent and rearticulate Methodist charisms for a wide audience.

Richard brings to the post a depth of spirituality, a breadth of theological reflection, a passion for the Gospel and a timely challenge to the church to know who we are, and to pursue meaningful ministry with the resources we have.

The Synod recommends to the Conference that the Revd Richard M Andrew is appointed to serve as Chair for the Darlington District for a period of six years from 1 September 2018.

The Revd Helen R Kirk

Helen Kirk is the Superintendent of the Vale of Aylesbury Circuit. She entered circuit ministry in 1997 and was ordained in 1999. She served in the Chester and Stoke-on-Trent District for 17 years until 2014, serving at various times on the Education and Youth Committee, the District Policy Committee and the Candidates' Committee, as Probationers' Secretary, and as Deputy Chair. She will return to a District where she is already known and respected and has already demonstrated a capacity to work in many different roles.

In addition to her experience as a circuit minister and district officer, Helen brings to the role of Chair the ability to tell stories of faith in a way that challenges and inspires churches and circuits. She has the theological wisdom, pastoral sensitivity, candour and humility to enable her to work with others in the leadership of the District, to question embedded assumptions, and to build on what has been achieved in recent years.

The Synod recommends to the Conference that the Revd Helen R Kirk is appointed to serve as Chair for the Chester and Stoke-on-Trent District for a period of six years from 1 September 2019.

The Revd S Mark Slaney

Mark Slaney is the superintendent of the Preston Ribble Circuit in the Lancashire District. He is an engaging and energetic minister, with an obvious depth of faith. Prior to ordained ministry Mark had wide experience in Christian youth work. He is a reflective practitioner who listens and builds on other people's ideas. He has training and experience in conflict resolution which he is willing to use to enable others.

Mark is passionate about the gospel and has a particular gift for communicating it beyond the walls of the church. This has found expression in much appreciated contributions to local radio. Within the church, Mark is passionate about theology and how it informs the way the church is and could be.

He is engaged in exploring how the pattern of life, death and resurrection that we see in Jesus is also being lived out in our churches.

Ecumenical engagement has been part of Mark's ministry in many ways, particularly expressed through involvement in a Methodist-Anglican school and its place in the community, and he is looking forward to bringing distinctive Methodist emphases to ecumenical engagement in Shetland and Scotland.

Mark will bring energy and enthusiasm, and a desire to help the Districts engage with biblical literacy and social action.

The Synods recommend to the Conference that the Revd S Mark Slaney is appointed to serve as Chair for the Shetland and Scotland Districts for a period of six years from 1 September 2019.

The Revd Kerry W Tankard

Kerry Tankard has wide experience of different forms of ministry, from rural to suburban and town centre, as well as ecumenical and interfaith experience. He began his presbyteral ministry in Ashton-under-Lyne in 1999, moving to Peterborough in 2004 and since 2013 has been serving as Superintendent in the High Peak Circuit.

Kerry studied for a BA at Wesley College, Bristol and whilst in Peterborough, completed his MA in Systematic and Philosophical Theology. He has also undergone the supervision training with a view to act as an alternate supervisor in his current District. He has been a member of the Faith and Order network.

Kerry has an enthusiastic and encouraging manner, an ability to communicate and is committed to a godly way of living. His ministry is sustained by a pattern of disciplined prayer, reading and reflection.

Kerry comes to the role with a sense of vocation and willingness to learn. He seeks to build confidence in faith so that people can engage effectively in their communities. He is a collaborative worker and will bring many gifts and insights to the future of the Yorkshire West District.

The Synod recommends to the Conference that the Revd Kerry W Tankard is appointed to serve as Chair for the Yorkshire West District for a period of six years from 1 September 2019.

The Revd Paul H Davis

Paul Davis has been Chair of the Lancashire District since 2013. Paul is widely recognised for his diligence, strong work ethic and tireless efforts for the good of the District. Paul has a deep knowledge of the District, as well as an immense knowledge and understanding of Methodism and the wider Connexion, which is helpful to the District. He is highly visible across the District as a whole, and people welcome his willingness to be involved in the life of the Circuits. Paul has also developed excellent relationships with ecumenical colleagues and members of the wider community.

Paul is a good listener, who is able to analyse situations and suggest solutions and options to what may initially appear intransigent issues. He can communicate at all levels, giving appropriate advice, guidance and direction. Paul is a very able preacher and communicator of God's word. Paul helps Circuits to recognise their potential to develop mission, giving strategic advice and encouragement, and supporting them as they seek to restructure in the light of decreasing human and financial resources. Paul recognises the gifts and skills of people, both lay and ordained, and encourages them to develop them. Paul's pastoral ministry for those in the District is also very much appreciated at all levels.

The Synod recommends to the Conference that the Revd Paul H Davis is appointed to serve as Chair for the Lancashire District for a further period of three years from 1 September 2019.

The Revd Ian Howarth

Ian Howarth has been Chair of the Birmingham District since 2013. His ministry is valued and held in high regard throughout the District. He is a consultative and approachable leader who has his own ideas but is willing to listen and discuss with others to determine the right course. Ian's musical skills and talents and his willingness to share them are widely acknowledged and appreciated. His preaching is helpful, challenging, relevant and inspiring and his pastoral care is widely appreciated. His commitment to outreach is demonstrated by The Church Without Walls initiative and the

Zimbabwean and Cameroonian fellowships, along with the two district projects, Jazz Church and the New Inclusive Church.

Ecumenically Ian is involved with Churches Together in Birmingham and in Worcester, supporting the work of all denominations and building relationships with other clergy. He makes a good contribution to interfaith work by his visible presence.

The Synod recommends to the Conference that the Revd Ian Howarth is appointed to serve as Chair for the Birmingham District for a further period of three years from 1 September 2019.

The Revd Dr Jennifer A Hurd

Jennie Hurd has been Chair of Synod Cymru since 2013. She has a quiet and unassuming presence which enables a very effective ministry to flourish. Her leadership style is widely appreciated and recognised as being caring and sympathetic but also firm and fair. Irrespective of any potential changes in the configuration of the Welsh Synods, Synod Cymru wishes to be led by Jennie, who would provide continuity and stability. Jennie has raised the profile of Wales, not merely the Synod, and brought the Synod to a position where it is highly respected within the Connexion and other denominations. Jennie's actions and leadership have made ordinary members appreciate and value what it is to be part of a connexional Church. Jennie's commitment to the development of Synod Cymru is evidenced by the recent review of the Synod and the Circuit which she has led. Jennie's commitment to outreach and mission has been evidenced in the programme adopted by the Synod entitled "*Developing Our Calling*".

The Synod recommends to the Conference that the Revd Dr Jennifer A Hurd is appointed to serve as Chair for Synod Cymru for a further period of five years from 1 September 2019.

The Revd Steven J Wild

Steve Wild has been Chair of the Cornwall District since 2008. Steve's leadership to Methodism in Cornwall is widely appreciated, including his support for Methodist heritage initiatives, enthusiastic ecumenical work and regular radio broadcasts. His leadership of worship is well-received and felt to be inspiring; Spirit-led; relaxed; enthusiastic; connecting well with all ages; sincere; spontaneous; uplifting; prayerful; and encouraging.

Steve is committed to outreach, and is gifted as an evangelist in a variety of settings. He has undertaken some excellent ecumenical work. The Synod strongly believes that the Chair's emphasis on and encouragement for local mission initiatives, the furthering of ecumenical projects and the District restructuring programme, would all benefit from Steve's continued ministry.

The Synod recommends to the Conference that the Revd Steven J Wild is appointed to serve as Chair for the Cornwall District for a further period of three years from 1 September 2019.