



FROM THE CHAIR

The Revd Dr David A. Hull

Dear Friends,

To celebrate Sarah's birthday this year, we had a family day out at Burrington Combe in Somerset. Whilst there, we visited the cleft in the rock which is said to be the place Augustus Toplady, then a local curate, was inspired to write his famous hymn whilst taking refuge from a sudden storm:

*Rock of Ages, cleft for me
Let me hide myself in thee.*

Although Augustus Toplady later disagreed strongly and sharply with John Wesley over theological debates, Toplady was converted under the preaching of one of Mr Wesley's preachers in Ireland. It was whilst he was a student at Trinity College Dublin that Toplady joined a gathering in a barn where he heard John Morris, an illiterate preacher. Toplady, who had been raised in a Christian home, wrote of his conversion:

"Strange that I, who had so long sat under the means of grace in England, should be brought nigh to God in an obscure part of Ireland, amidst a handful of God's people met together in a barn, and under the ministry of one who could hardly spell his name! Surely it was the Lord's doing, and is marvellous!"

Earlier in this edition of MET Connexion, I wrote of John Wesley reading Jonathan Edwards's astonishing account of revival in New England, and of Wesley's subsequent comment in his journal, quoting the same words of Psalm 118:23, 'This is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes'. I am struck by the fact that they used the very same words, one to speak of widespread revival, the other to speak of personal conversion. Each is equally

the Lord's doing, and each is therefore equally marvellous.

In that earlier article you can read of our fresh focus for this new season in the work of MET. I hope you will be inspired to prepare for, pray for and pursue revival with us. Please do have us in your prayers as we develop this work.

I am very much looking forward to travelling to various churches and circuits over this Autumn and next Spring for a series of 'MET Local' events, joining in worship, sharing our vision, and praying together. If you would like to host such an event in your church or circuit, please do contact Marian Izzard (admin@methodistevangelicals.org.uk / 01983 642024); we would be delighted to explore possibilities with you. We don't need large numbers of people: just a group committed to seeking the Lord together and willing to make an open invitation for others to join.

You will also see in this edition that we are readvertising MET's new Director of Ministry post. I was able to update the AGM that, although we offered the post at the conclusion of the last interviews, we reached a point in the subsequent processes where it became clear that it wasn't going to be possible for the candidate to be able to accept the role at this time. This has given us an opportunity to revise the job description, which is now available. Please do look at the advert and related documents, and if you or anyone you know might be interested in the role, please do prayerfully take the next steps. We continue to be very grateful indeed for the generous financial donations to make this appointment possible. If you are able to make a contribution at this stage,

either for our Director of Ministry appeal or for our general funds, please do visit methodistevangelicals.org.uk/donate.

As well as unanimously endorsing our fresh focus, the other major business at this year's AGM was to elect the new Chair, the Revd Chris Briggs, who will take office on 1 January 2025 at the latest. Please do pray for him and for the whole Executive Committee as we prepare for this transition. I am delighted that Chris has agreed to serve in this way and look forward to passing on the baton in due course.

Finally, if you have not already booked, please do consider joining us at our national gathering, REVIVE in Northampton this November, where I will be joined by fellow speakers, Steve Uppall (author of *Revival Ready*) and Grace Pratt Morris-Chapman, who currently serves in Uganda; Hilary Balsdon will be leading worship. Further details can be found at methodistevangelicals.org.uk/revive. We would love to see you there!

As I conclude, I would like to take the opportunity to thank sincerely Marian Izzard for all she does, both as Editor of MET Connexion, and as Administrator for MET. John Hogarth has been serving as Interim Development Worker and, likewise, I am very grateful to him for all he has done.

All that remains is for me to wish you a very Happy New Methodist Year!

Rejoicing in our Partnership in the Gospel,

David