This report contains selected highlights of the work we have undertaken and a reminder of some of our on-going engagement whilst recognizing the changed context in which we are all living and operating.

**Working Locally**

We respond to requests from Circuits and groups of churches with regard to mission development; Circuit Steward training; and Review work. We celebrate with Bolsover/Staveley and Chesterfield Circuits as they work towards creating a new Circuit.

The Yorkshire Plus team is part of a number of key District groups including: DPCs, DLTs, the Peak Park Rural Development Group; Learning and Development Groups; Synod Planning Group; Circuit Support Group; Safeguarding groups and Grants committees.

We are supporting the District Safeguarding Officers in Sheffield and Yorkshire North and East with the Advanced Module Safeguarding training which is now for all local preachers and worship leaders. This is a considerable undertaking and we have held training days throughout the year. We are also facilitating training the trainer events for the new Foundation Module.

We have a good working relationship with Whirlow Spirituality Centre. Siggy has worked with a team to put on an evening event on the Book of Esther which was delivered in partnership with the Jewish community and several non-faith organizations and a second, similar event is planned on the Book of Ruth to sit alongside Bible Month. Rachel is part of the facilitation team for Spiritual Accompaniment.

**Working Regionally**

The ‘How to’ practitioner days have been received warmly and have led to further requests for training. The day on Local Arrangements has since been repeated for Sheffield Circuit and for Flourish, a major Yorkshire North and East District event. On all three occasions this has been very well attended. We anticipate arranging further dates for this subject.

Carla continues to support the organisation of the Pentecost Party within the Yorkshire West District.  Look out for details for the 2021 event as this year’s has understandably been postponed.

We are working ecumenically via the Network of Yorkshire Learning Practitioners (NYLP) and with the URC Yorkshire Synod, supporting LEPs with their Church Reviews.

We held the Joined-Up Conference in March which was a great success despite having to move venues at the last minute. Wesley Hall and St Thomas’ came together in order to give us enough space to run the day and we had over 200 people with keynote speakers, short-stories, market-place and a plethora of engaging workshops around children’s, youth and families ministry, schools work and chaplaincy.

We offer training around the Positive Working Together agenda, including a day on Growing through Conflict and one on Bullying and Harassment. These days are excellent for circuit teams who would like to learn more about conflict styles and how we can grow through conflict and also for those seeking to build relationships in healthy ways across all areas of church life.

Supervision training across the Region has gone well and we have held briefing days with the Chairs for Ministers who are going into supervision and are planning continuing development days around this agenda.

We continue to deliver line-management training and support days as well as our lay orientation programme and a training day on lay leadership skills. Our team works with District leads to actively support lay employees across the region through three regional Communities of Practice which will be happening via zoom in this next period.

The Pioneer Pathway Community of Practice continues to grow and be of real benefit to those working in pioneering contexts.  We continue to coach and support pioneers across the Region. Rachel is part of the New Places New People Connexional team.

We held two regional retreats for presbyters, deacons and lay employees both prayerfully and beautifully led by Jill Baker at Cliff College and Edel McClean at Wydale, and much appreciated by those who attended.

Following her continued support of the James Hudson Taylor Lifepath within the Barnsley Circuit, Carla and a team are developing a John Wesley event for schools.

Siggy continues to develop her work on workshops based on female saints. There are now workshops available on Julian of Norwich, Abbess Hild of Whitby and Brigid, some of which have been delivered at Regional events. Work on developing Forest Church is ongoing.

Graham heads up the Candidates’ Support Group with Rev Sean Adair and this year we have supported six candidates from the region through this rigorous process, and been joined by others exploring their call to ordained ministry. As Sean steps down from this role we would like to express our deep appreciation to him for his considerable contribution and commitment over many years.

**Working Connexionally**

We have completed the Facilitator Training for the *God in Love Unites Us* report and the District conversations are on-going.

We remain involved in supporting and delivering Connexional priorities, including: Bible Month; Thy Kingdom Come; A Methodist Way of Life;

Cliff Festival; 3Generate; Rise and Shine; OPP training weekends; the Fresh Expressions Gathering ‘New Places for People; and Germinate Leadership.

Our on-going support for the training and development

of worship leaders and local preachers includes training

for tutors and mentors; development events; portfolio moderation by a Regional team; and delivery of the

*Explore* sessions at Cliff Spring and Summer Schools.

Siggy and Rachel have delivered training on a ‘Taste of AI’ for colleagues across the Connexion and Siggy is now writing for ‘Roots’ magazine. She is also working with Rachel Lampard and the Connexional Justice group that is seeking to increase engagement with social issues across the Connexion and she has graphically recorded the recent JPIT conference.

Our thanks go to the large network of people and organizations who partner with us in the delivery of

learning and development across the Yorkshire Plus Region.

Please contact us if you would like to be part of this

Network.

**Contacts:**

Rachel McCallam: 07799 900478 mccallamr@methodistchurch.org.uk

Graham Jones: 07799 902574 jonesg@methodistchurch.org.uk

Siggy Parratt-Halbert: 07799 902575

parratt-halberts@methodistchurch.org.uk

Carla Quenet: 07772 979670 quenetc@methodistchurch.org.uk

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