**THE METHODIST CHURCH**

**YORKSHIRE NORTH AND EAST DISTRICT**

**REPRESENTATIVE SYNOD, 25th APRIL 2020**

**REPORT FROM THE DISTRICT PROPERTY SECRETARY**

**Property Projects**

The last Connexional year (2018/19) saw an increase in the number of schemes in the District that were entered onto the Property Website (effectively the start of the authorisation process); this was a continuation of the pattern over the past few years. A total of 37 schemes were entered in 2018/19 (compared to 25 in 2017/18 and 19 in 2016/17). However, six of these new entries were the result of phasing schemes that had previously been entered in previous years (it is generally easier to manage phased schemes if each has its own scheme on the system).

During the last Connexional year (2018/19) authorisation was given to a total of 46 schemes (compared to a total of 31 in both 2017/18 and 2016/17). The majority of the schemes (24) were for alteration or repairs (compared to 17 the previous year). These ranged from very small projects, such as the installation of a defibrillator to the exterior of a listed chapel to major alterations at the Willerby chapel in the Hull (Centre and West) Circuit at an estimated cost of approximately £450,000. Authorisation was also given for the construction of the new chapel at Driffield in the Driffield-Hornsea Circuit, which is now almost complete at a cost approaching £1.5 million. Authorisation was granted for the sale of 10 properties (4 being of redundant chapels), and the leasing of 8 properties. The other four authorisations related to the purchase of two manses, the granting of an easement, and the re-authorisation of an amended project.

**Annual Property Returns**

The Annual Property Return (completed on-line) is an important process, as it contains all the information required to ensure that the churches and circuits in the District are complying with Charity Law, Health & Safety and safeguarding.

***The returns should be submitted by 31st May 2020.***

**District Property**

The District Trustees are responsible for four properties, the District Manse, Hull International House and York International House (which occupies two separate buildings - 17 Constantine Avenue and St. George’s Apartments).

The quinquennial inspection of Hull International House identified a range of work that is required but also indicated that the condition of the building is not as poor as had been feared.

The future of the St. George’s Apartments is currently under consideration as a result of the request to cease worship at Cornerstone, which is the church that occupies the ground floor of the same building.

No urgent outstanding issues have been identified for the other properties.

Andrew Brown

District Property Secretary

8th April 2020