**THE METHODIST CHURCH**

**YORKSHIRE NORTH AND EAST DISTRICT**

**REPRESENTATIVE SYNOD, 24th APRIL 2021**

**REPORT FROM THE DISTRICT PROPERTY SECRETARY**

**Property Projects**

The last Connexional year (2019/20) saw a reduction in the number of schemes in the District that were entered onto the Property Website (effectively the start of the authorisation process); this reduction was almost certainly the result of the Covid 19 pandemic in the second half of the year. A total of 26 schemes were entered in 2019/20 (compared to 37 in 2018/19 and 25 in 2017/18) and four of these related to a decision to phase the major scheme at Poppleton in the York Circuit.

During the last Connexional year (2019/20) authorisation was given to a total of 26 schemes (compared to 46 in 2018/19). Ten of these schemes were for relatively small-scale alteration or repairs (compared to 24 the previous year); no major schemes for alteration or extension were authorised. Authorisation was also granted for the sale of 10 properties (3 being of redundant chapels), and the leasing of 5 properties. The other authorisation related to the purchase of land at Malton in connection with its major 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 2021.***

**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).

Last year I reported that the future of the St. George’s Apartments was 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. It is now hoped that the building (including the apartments) will be sold to York Community Church, which will allow it to continue its community work in the area.

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

Andrew Brown

District Property Secretary

4th March 2021