

UPDATE ON THE POSSIBLE JOINT APPOINTMENT (August 2016)

Last month we announced that there was an opportunity to explore the possibility of a joint appointment between the Methodist Circuit and the Rainbow Parish. A preliminary meeting has now taken place. (David Stretton (Acting Methodist Circuit Superintendent), Nick Burd (Methodist Circuit Treasurer) met with Richard Snow. Penny Driver, our archdeacon, was also due to attend but she was unavoidably detained at another meeting and had to give her apologies). The purpose was to begin to identify the questions that need to be addressed, and the arrangements that would have to be put into place, for Rev. Wendy Thornton to work half time with Kirkby Lonsdale and Cowan Bridge Methodist Churches, and half time with the Rainbow parish.

Possible arrangements for housing, stipend, employment, oversight, period of agreement, as well as concerns and potential obstacles were discussed. As you might imagine there are both 'local' issues that need to be considered and also issues that we will have to ask our two denominations to clarify including:

- the funding arrangements that would be required to meet Wendy's stipend costs
- the permissions that would be needed if we are to go ahead.

Two essential 'local' elements will be creating the 'Statement of Particulars/Job Description ' for both parts of Wendy's ministry, and also providing the ministerial support for Sandylands Methodist Church in Kendal. There are plans to explore these over the coming weeks.

All of this is working towards producing some proposals for wider discussion and consultation – though this is probably some way off yet.

I am very happy to receive any comments or ideas about any of this and it will be discussed in the meetings that I attend.

Rev. Richard Snow