

Embargoed until Sunday 24th July

STATEMENT TO CHURCHES

During the review of the Methodist Circuit Priorities an opportunity has arisen to re-organise their sections and also the deployment of their ministers and, within this, to explore the possibility of a joint appointment with the Anglican Rainbow Parish.

On the Methodist side, this could affect Wendy Thornton's area of pastoral responsibility. It might be that Wendy would continue to work in Kirkby Lonsdale and Cowan Bridge but cease to work in Sandylands. Alternative ministerial provision would then need to be made in Sandylands. On the Anglican side this would mean that Wendy would start work in the Rainbow Parish. This would mean revising the post which currently is envisaged as 'House for Duty'.

In order to explore this, the Methodist Circuit Leadership Team is entering into a conversation with the Diocese along with the local Churches who will be fully involved in the process of discernment. The Circuit Leadership Team and the PCC felt that it is essential that all the Churches affected are aware from the outset so that concerns and questions can be considered during this process.

The possibility of these changes brings with it an exciting opportunity but also a degree of uncertainty for churches over the next few months. Please be assured that everyone involved will be working in as transparent a way as possible and endeavouring to ensure that everyone is fully involved as the consultation process progresses. With regard to any changes in oversight regarding Methodist ministers, it will be the Circuit Meeting that makes the final decision.

Please pray with us for wisdom and guidance at this time.