

SYNOD MINISTRIES COMMITTEE REPORT

1. **Welcome:** We welcomed four new members to the Committee, Revds Sue Chapman, Alison Davis (in her absence), Peter Flint and Jim Thorneycroft.
2. **Training for Synod Accredited Lay Preachers:** The first course started on 23rd January at Horsham URC. It was encouraging to note that 14 students signed up for the course.
3. **Supervision as accountability and support:** This was a scheduled discussion looking at the Methodist supervisory scheme for ministers. Each meeting involves reflective practice and is an exploratory process with no fixed outcomes. It is designed to change the culture from isolated practice to one of accountability and trust by means of providing a safe place to share painful places of ministry. Full details of the scheme can be found on the web at <http://www.methodist.org.uk/for-ministers-and-office-holders/leadership-and-ministry/supervision/supervision-policy-2017-20-and-forms/>
- The committee recognised that there are unique differences between our two denominations but know we have similar problems and difficulties. The Revd Richard Church, URC Deputy General Secretary (Discipleship), is already looking at the Methodist model and so the committee has written to him to say that SMC would be interested in any information or discussion.
4. **General Data Protection Regulations.** Church House is sending out material to Synods and local churches.
5. **Safeguarding training:** The Training and Development Officer presented three proposals which the committee accepted.
 1. All ministers should receive ongoing Safeguarding training at least every 3 years;
 2. That this training will be at a "higher level" than what would normally be given to other church members;
 3. We urge colleagues at Church House to work towards implementing a similar set of principles to be adopted by the denomination as a whole.
6. **Special Category Posts:** Brighthelm has been reviewed and accepted for a further 5-year term. Both Crossways and Bromley applications have reached the second stage and await visitors from the Accreditation Sub Committee. The Mission Officer is pursuing options for a CRCW post at Copleston Centre.

Bridget Banks. *Convener of Ministries Committee*