

# THE NEW CHAIR WRITES

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*Finish then, thy new  
creation; pure and  
spotless let us be*

Thank you so much to David Hull for his immense commitment to evangelicals in the Methodist Church for many years, not least through the role of Chair. This has taken great energy, stamina and commitment. We are so grateful for that. I believe God has blessed us through David's desire to emphasise the important voice that evangelicals have in the Church today around the world and with the recent emphasis on prayer for revival.

I am honoured and humbled to be serving as Chair of MET:Revive. I should appreciate your prayers as I seek to learn how to fulfil this role and honour God in the way that I serve. Please pray that I may be open to God's Holy Spirit as I enter this season.

Our theme for this edition of the magazine is 'Holiness' and you will find articles that I pray will help to explore this important aspect of Christian life.

I am convinced that holiness is a vital aspect of Christian discipleship which may sometimes get overlooked. I am sure this is not intentional. It can happen though when we concentrate so hard on calling all to follow Jesus as Lord and Saviour in the welcoming way that befits those with an Arminian background that we forget that God wants to continue to grow the likeness of Christ within us throughout our lives. There is work to be done when we come to Christ. I am not talking about the Protestant work ethic, but instead

the way that God wants to continue his work of formation within us, 'Finish then, thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be'.

I have a sign on my office desk which reads 'Work in Progress'. People laugh when they come in and see me doing nothing, so I've fooled no-one! However the words are true in another sense. I am a work in progress. God wants to sanctify me. He wants to enable me to be holy. He wants to do the same with each of us. Romans 6:22-23 reminds me of this, 'But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.' You may have come across the quote, 'God loves us just the way we are. But he loves us too much to leave us that way' (Adrian Rogers – Preacher, Teacher, Author).

When I think through what it means to come into a relationship with Jesus, I have often found it helpful to remind myself of the discipleship we enter into by reflection on Justification (when we are saved from the consequences of sin), Sanctification (as we are saved from the presence of sin in our lives), and Glorification (when we shall be saved from the presence of sin eternally). Another aid to reflection for me has been the 'four alls' which W. B. Fitzgerald (who helped to found the Wesley Guild) drew up to summarise British Methodists' distinctive Wesleyan aspects of salvation:

- All need to be saved (All have sinned)
- All can be saved (God loves the world and desires everyone to be saved)
- All can know they are saved (experiential faith and assurance)

- All can be saved to the uttermost (Christian perfection, holiness, sanctification).

The importance of holiness is seen in scripture, but it has also been evidenced through the ages when revivals have happened. It seems when revival breaks out the Holy Spirit convicts people of sin. Many are the stories of revival where people have wept in the streets as well as the churches as they have realised that God has work to do in their lives.

I hope we can emphasise once again the importance of God's ongoing work within us so that the world might see an ever-growing likeness of Christ in the lives of his followers and that as they do so others will be drawn to our beautiful Saviour.

With joy we serve a risen Saviour.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Chris Briggs'.

**CHRIS BRIGGS**

Rev Chris Briggs is a Supernumerary Presbyterian in the Methodist Church of Great Britain. His responsibilities have included a seven year role up to August 2024 as Mission Enabler of the Nottingham and Derby Methodist District in addition to serving at Littleover and St Martin's Methodist Churches in Derby where he continues to serve part-time. Chris has served in a variety of places in the Methodist Church including the Luton area and Portland in Dorset. Chris is married to Nicola, also a Presbyterian in the Methodist Church and they have three children and two grandchildren.