

News from MET SOUTH WEST

Caroline Colin, newly appointed Chair of MET South West

During another enjoyable MET South West Conference held at the Livermead Cliff Hotel in Torquay over the weekend of 23 – 25 January 2026, I was humbled to be appointed as the next Chair, with effect from 24 January 2026.

Deep and grateful thanks are given to Rev Doreen Sparey-Delacassa (Chair), Tony Wragg (Secretary), Paul Violet (Treasurer), Sue Hamblin, Julian Tawn and Mark Pellow. These folk and many who have gone before, have cherished, led and prayed into and over the MET SW Conferences for many years.

The mantle has passed to me, and, as a means of introduction, I have been asked to tell you a little about myself.

I am the eldest of three children born to a Liverpudlian mum and Geordie dad, both of whom met, married and raised a family in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe. I met my husband, Len, whilst we were taking part in an amateur dramatic production of *Pirates of Penzance* at the Bulawayo Theatre in 1983. We have two adult children and four wonderful grandchildren.

Len and I were raised within the Methodist denomination of Christianity in Bulawayo attending two of the five churches within one circuit. We were married at my home church, Main Street Methodist Church, and held offices of steward (Len), choir member (me), and member of Women's Association (obviously, me). We transferred our membership to Hillside Methodist Church and served there prior to emigrating to England in December 2005 for no other reason than the economic downfall of the Zimbabwean Dollar and the reality check that we needed to shore up our financial stability for later life. That move was one of the hardest things I have ever done and, 20 years later, still causes a tear to fall on its recollection.

However, on arriving in Exeter in January 2006, I attended the Mint Methodist Church in Exeter. The minister at the time was Rev Andrew Sails, who encouraged me to consider training to be a Local Preacher, something I was never asked to consider whilst in Bulawayo! I was accredited on 15 September 2012, at Wonford Methodist Church and have been privileged to hold that office to this day. I candidated for the Methodist ministry in 2017, but was not successful. The Lord clearly had other plans for me.

I am a passionate evangelical Christian. The whole of scripture points to and tells of Jesus, God's son who was born as a baby to Mary, who died an awful death and shed his blood for my sins, who victoriously defeated death and was raised to life on the third day. I believe he will come again to restore this broken world to his Father's original, perfect intention. Jesus is my Saviour.

From an early age, and growing up into adult life, Christian teaching, godly friendships and prayer partners have been paramount to shape, correct and encourage me to be the Christian woman that I am today.

As a woman, saved to the utmost, I humbly offer who I am to work alongside Committee members, to ensure that the annual MET Conference held in the South West of England and open to all, continues to offer a wonderful weekend away where great biblical teaching, fantastic praise and worship, superb hotel service and 5-star silver service afford an annual breathing space at the end of January. You are very welcome to join us!

Note the weekend of Friday 29 – Sunday 31 January 2027 and join those gathering to hear Rev Chris Briggs (Chair of MET:Revive), who will be our guest speaker.

