

MARRIAGE AND RELATIONSHIPS

The Methodist Church has been engaging in a national debate about marriage and relationships over the past couple of years or so. At this year's annual Conference, there was a full-scale debate streamed live and also available to watch until 4 August on the national website: <https://www.methodist.org.uk/> .

Most of us will have at least some experience of conventional two-parent families, single parent families, cohabiting couples, single people, people who have divorced and re-married, same-sex partnerships, and many others. Relationship issues raise strong feelings and opinions and we must be careful to express them courteously and sensitively without causing offence to those who hold differing views. Our Lord urges us to love one another and we must make every effort to do so through all of our differences.

Our church magazine, 'The Herald' has carried articles on the subject over four issues commencing in April which can be found on our website: <http://www.poyntonmethodist.org> offering these various opinions as a contribution to the debate. These are not official views of the Methodist Church or of Poynton Methodist Church, but the thoughts of individuals, as we strive to understand and inform ourselves about the different strands of opinion.

We intend to arrange further discussions and contributions later this year and early next in preparation for the Conference vote in July 2020 which will result in the adoption of a definitive Policy Statement. Please watch out for more information in future Heralds where we will also advise of similar discussions available under Circuit and District auspices.