



Methodist Church Spring Synod Report

Thank you for all the wonderful support from our friends within the Methodist Church, your tremendous dedication to Methodist Homes (MHA) and your overwhelming support of our mission, vision, and values has supported our vital work in helping those in later life to live well.

Celebrating MHA's 80th year

This year sees MHA celebrating its 80th year.

There will be an 80th-anniversary service held at Wesley Church, Harrogate on 23 September where all are encouraged to come together to celebrate and pray for older people, including everybody involved in making later life something to be lived well.

We'll be remembering our founder Rev Walter Hall and celebrating the milestones we have achieved throughout the years. From building our specialist care homes to the introduction of both our music therapy and chaplaincy teams, we have a lot to reflect on and thanks to the Methodist Church we continue to have so much more to celebrate.

To see a timeline of MHA's history and Walters Words video visit: mha.org.uk/about/our-story

Cost-of-living crisis and MHA

Due in part to the cost-of-living crisis and the aftermath of Covid, our care homes, retirement living schemes and community groups have faced extra challenges.

The launch of MHA Communities (formerly Live at Home) has continued to adapt during the crisis, helping to eliminate isolation and loneliness by providing warm spaces and continuing our lunch clubs that often provide a hot meal for their members, something which is incredibly important during these difficult times.

Nicky Stevens, MHA Communities Scheme Manager said: "Our activities are now, more than ever, vitally important. For example, the hot meal that members receive at our lunch clubs could potentially be life-saving. The meal could be the only one they have all day as people make the choice between heating or eating". For more info visit: mha.org.uk/communities

We are, as always, incredibly proud of our volunteers and colleagues, including our music therapists and chaplains, who go above and beyond to provide innovative and creative ways to meet the needs of residents and members as well as their families.



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The Last Taboo

During 2022 MHA developed a 2 ½ hour workshop to encourage conversations about death and dying called 'The Last Taboo'. It creates a safe place in which to talk about sensitive subjects:

- why some people don't talk about dying, and why they should
- how we find meaning, purpose, and values and how they matter at the end of life
- listening and communication
- what we could do differently when we talk about dying

Feedback so far has been excellent, and we are working with The Learning Network to offer the last taboo in each LN region. If you would like to know more, please contact your learning network team, your MHA area support chaplain or email; chaplaincy@mha.org.uk.

MHA Sunday

Our theme for MHA Sunday 2022 was 'Growing Together' inspired by Isaiah 43:19. This focused on how the beauty, tranquillity and joy of nature can reduce isolation and bring communities together.

Through your generous support and suppliers, we have raised £135,505 from MHA Sunday and wider support from the faith community over the past 12 months. Thank you so much for your continued support.

This year, our MHA Sunday will be themed around 1 Corinthians 12: 12-27 – 'there is one body, but it has many parts. But all its parts make up one body.' The theme focuses on how we need one another for our wellbeing and how being inclusive in our sense of community makes us stronger in faith and action.

Churches and individuals such as yourselves enable MHA to continue to bring hope to people across the country and support them to live later life well.

MHA Sunday is held on 11 June 2023, however, you are welcome to hold your service and fundraise on this day or any day that fits your calendar of activities.

Your gifts and prayers for MHA Sunday 2023 will support people to live later life well, including intergenerational activities that bring value and a positive sense of worth that we know increase happiness in people of all ages.

Our dedicated web page has free downloadable resources including an order of service, video and posters that we hope you will find useful to organise your service. You may also order Gift Aid envelopes for your church / circuit by visiting: mha.org.uk/Sunday.



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Message for Methodist Church Treasurers

At MHA we are blessed and thankful for the donations we receive from Methodist Districts, Circuits and Churches. We have noticed an understandable subtle shift in how the Methodist Church donates to MHA. Instead of cheques, many more now donate direct to MHA via Bank Transfer.

This has been challenging for MHA as we receive many donations a month into our account, but with no reference. As we cannot always match the donation to a specific church or circuit, it can cause significant delays in thank you being sent out while we investigate. On occasion we may not be able to thank the church or circuit at all due to lack of information. As a charity we are keen to say thank you for each and every gift as it means so much to us and how it enables people to live later life well.

To help us to match donations to churches or circuits and thank you swiftly, could all church and circuit treasurers please use the following reference for Bank Transfers to MHA:

District number / Circuit number followed by postcode of your church OR circuit name

For example, using Ashbourne Methodist Church on Church Street:

22/11 DE6 1AE

To make sure that MHA are aware of your incoming donation and where to send the thank you, you are always welcome to email fundraising@mha.org.uk or call 01332 221 883 and confirm the following:

Amount: £

Date sent:

Full Church / Circuit Name:

Sort Code & Account Number (optional – this is always included on a Bank Transfer gift):

Confirm the address / email for the thank you:

If you have donations to forward to MHA for MHA Sunday or Christmas via Bank Transfer, wish to chat or confirm any of the above you are most welcome to contact us directly on the above details.

Thank you for all your support. In faith and kindness, we are stronger together.