

## **“EDI Training For All Saints and Trinity Churches Tuesday**

**13<sup>th</sup> August 2024 7:30pm**

Who is missing?”

As we look around our churches the question “who is missing?” is both pertinent and challenging.

This is not about who is away on holiday, or those who may be temporarily unwell and therefore cannot come to worship, but rather it is a much larger and all encompassing question.

Connexionally, you may be aware that the Methodist Church seeks to be an inclusive church with a welcome for all and to be a place where everyone may feel at home, valued for who they are and where the richness of human diversity is celebrated. The Methodist Church has produced excellent resources to help us with this.

It is in this context that the question “who is missing?” should be faced and addressed.

In essence, it is asking us to look at our churches in the settings in which they are placed and ask, who is not here? How representative of our communities are we?

Are there things that we do or don't do (large or small, intentionally or unintentionally) that prevent those who are missing from coming along or being part of us?

Are there things that we automatically do that do not make sense to others, or who find them unhelpful or off-putting. How much of what we say for example, do we assume that people know and understand?

This is a question about mission, ministry, welcome, acceptance, hospitality and service.

The new Equality, Diversity and Inclusion training (EDI) is designed to help us look at ourselves and see how we can as churches and Circuits, be more welcoming and inclusive, reflecting the diversity of our communities and be a place where everyone is known and valued for who they are.

To help with this, Keith Underhill will be leading some EDI training for those in the Abingdon end of the Circuit at All Saints Methodist Church on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> August at 7:30pm.

Whilst this training is mandatory for Ministers, Supernumeraries, Local Preachers, Worship Leaders, Circuit Stewards and Church Stewards, it is hoped that as many people as possible from our churches will want to come along.

It is our hope that by engaging with this process, it will help us to live out our commitment to being a church which is inclusive and justice-seeking for we are committed to life-long learning about the richness of human diversity and to learning from one another.

Please contact Keith if you have any questions or queries.