

To all members in:
Earlsdon Methodist Church
Radford & Holbrooks Methodist Church
Woodside Ave Methodist Church

Dear Friends,

Sabbatical of Reverend Doreen Koffie-Williams

As you may already know, Doreen will be starting a period of sabbatical on 1st May 2026.

According to Standing Orders a sabbatical “is a period of release from the ordinary duties of the appointment, in addition to normal holidays, for the purpose of pursuing an approved programme of study, research, work or experience.”

In the majority of cases a sabbatical will be for a period of three months, and this will be the case for Doreen. However, Doreen will also be moving to a new stationing at the end of this Methodist church year. Therefore, the start of Doreen’s sabbatical will also be the end of her stationing in the Circuit and, more specifically the end of her ministry with your churches.

We are grateful to Doreen for all that she has given us during her time here and we know you will have said your own goodbyes at the churches. We would like to say a huge thank you for the joyous and well-fed (!) celebration that we had together for the circuit farewell service. Thank you to all those who contributed in different ways.

A minister’s sabbatical is a mixture of study, retreat, and time catching up with family and time to recharge physically and spiritually. While Doreen is on her sabbatical she will continue to live in her manse and it is possible, therefore, that a number of you will still see Doreen occasionally. No doubt Doreen will continue to be pleased to see familiar faces but please be mindful that the time of sabbatical is a “release from normal duties”.

Please also be aware that Doreen will not be reviewing or responding to emails during her sabbatical (or actioning them on her return). Please deal with matters locally if you can by contacting your senior church steward.

If the matters cannot be dealt with locally Jane Bennett, our Circuit Administrator, may be able to help or signpost you to somebody who can, at the circuit office

office@covnunmethodist.org.uk

The pastoral and practical support of your church and its members will continue through the remaining Circuit staff team, and supernumeraries, and the stewards will know who to contact for particular issues.

Many churches also find that their minister's sabbatical can be a time for rest and reflection and for renewal of their church life, ready for a new season.

From 1st September 2026 Rev Becki Stennett will have presbyteral oversight of all four Methodist churches in Coventry but will need to work in a different way from that in which Doreen has been able to work up until now, due to the level of responsibility at Central Hall. Rev Becki will be supported by other ministers and, of course, by your local lay leaders in each church. The stewards have details of how this will work and we will keep in touch to review how things are going. If you have concerns at any point, or points of rejoicing, you are welcome to share them with us, and also to join us for prayer at 9.15 am on the first Tuesday of every month for Circuit prayers. The zoom link is available from the office.

The stewards are meeting with Jill Marsh and Becki Stennett on Sun. 31st May and Rev Becki will then begin to work with the churches on preparation for the next Methodist year.

Please pray for Doreen, for Becki, for each other, and for all the Circuit Leadership Team as we move into the new Methodist year and patterns of working, determined as ever to serve our local communities and the world God loves. We witness to a God who wants us all to have life in all its fulness (John 10:10).

Every blessing during this time,

Karen Brooks

Jill Marsh

Karen Brooks (Circuit steward) and Jill Marsh (Superintendent Minister)