A message about the future of the Guy Chester Centre

from Fraser Mackay, Centre Director
and all the trustees and staff of the Guy Chester Centre
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A friend of mine regularly tells his congregation ‘constant change is here to stay’. The prospect of change is scary and threatening as well as exciting and stretching. It is rooted in uncertainty and in hope for the future. And that is how life feels around the Guy Chester Centre right now.

Some of you will know that this summer’s Methodist Conference adopted a report, which contained several exciting and challenging decisions around the future of training within the church. It has two significant implications for the Guy Chester Centre as we have been identified as an income generating institution and the training and spirituality work based here will be absorbed into the new Discipleship and Ministries Network set up as a result of the report. The detail of what that all means is still being decided Connexionally. What we do know is that we will cease to offer any public programme after the current one ends in March and we will close the conference centre at the end of June.

We believe that the training and spirituality work has contributed significantly to the lives of many people and we will be sorry to see that come to an end. We are discussing how we might best celebrate all that has happened in this work but for now I want to express my thanks to Mark Wakelin and Morfa Jones for establishing the work and to all those who have worked alongside us in delivering events.

The future of the halls and the estate in their present format is also under review. We would therefore appreciate your prayers for all of our staff as they face the prospect of change and for those involved in decision-making that they will be full of wisdom as they tussle with all that is on their agenda over the next few months.