

# *Circuit Mission Policy: 2023-2026*

## **Our Vision**

That the people of the area covered by the Circuit will come to know the love of God in Jesus Christ.

## **Our Mission**

To encourage, enable and equip the Churches of the Grantham and Vale of Belvoir Circuit to share in the callings of the Methodist Church (and at ChristChurch LEP, Grantham, also the URC Vision2020 and the five Marks of Mission) and to regularly ask the question, "what is our mission in this place?"

To promote a community of churches who worship God, learn to know Jesus Christ, proclaim His love and serve their local community in partnership with others wherever possible.

## **Our Calling**

As part of the Nottingham and Derby District, we share the calling of the Methodist Church to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out our discipleship in worship and mission. As part of the Methodist Church, we exist to:

- increase awareness of God's presence and to celebrate God's love
- help people to grow and learn as Christians, through mutual support and care
- be a good neighbour to people in need and to challenge injustice
- make more followers of Jesus Christ

## **Our Priorities**

We also embrace the priorities of the Methodist Church and will seek to:

- underpin everything we do with God-centred worship and prayer
- support community development and action for justice, especially among the most deprived and poor - in Britain and worldwide
- develop confidence in evangelism and in the capacity to speak of God and faith in ways that make sense to all involved
- encourage fresh ways of being Church
- nurture a culture which is people-centred and flexible

## **How we will do this**

Using our resources efficiently to fulfil our calling, we will seek to value all that God has been doing in our midst and look for new opportunities to share God's love. In light of this, responding the District's Mission Policy, we will commit ourselves to the following:

## **Worship**

As a Circuit we will

- celebrate worship as the core of our faith
- enable our local preachers and worship leaders to use their particular gifts effectively across the Circuit
- equip local preachers' and worship leaders' ongoing development
- encourage and support members to consider the call to preach and lead worship
- share ideas and encourage participation in worship
- encourage cluster events/services across the Circuit

We encourage our churches to

- make their church/worship welcoming and accessible
- explore different kinds of worship (eg: café/Taizé)
- identify opportunities to encourage different age groups to join in worship, applicable to the local context

## **Learning and Caring**

As a Circuit we will

- offer Pastoral Visitor, Safeguarding and Preacher/Worship Leader training
- encourage ongoing discipleship using resources such as "A Methodist Way of Life" and "Holy Habits", and in our LEP at ChristChurch, other relevant denominational material

We encourage our churches to

- provide specific, regular opportunities for Bible Study and prayer
- consider how they could respond to new opportunities to develop pastoral care

## **Service**

As a Circuit we will

- provide resources to equip local churches to serve their community

We encourage our churches to

- assess local needs through contact with the wider community
- identify and implement strategies for work with young people
- support and initiate work with other churches and groups in its community

## **Evangelism**

As a Circuit we will

- confirm mission as the first priority of the circuit
- explore examples of mission initiatives, available expertise and support from across the District including the Mission Enabler and the Connexion
- consider appointing an enabler to assist churches develop their visions for growth
- support community outreach initiatives

We encourage our churches to

- assess their current outreach initiatives
- reflect on and consider what is working and what needs to cease, or change

## **Resources**

As a Circuit we will

- maintain effective structures and governance across the Circuit, supporting churches who wish to explore the challenges of trusteeship
- review the policy on assessments and reserves
- provide property advice and support
- deploy resources in support of the Mission Action Plan
- identify and fund roles/resources to support the Mission Action Plan
- seek to extend IT provision and share expertise

We encourage our churches

- to use the current proforma for financial/mission requests to the Circuit
- maintain their premises in line with their quinquennial inspection

## **Our Prayer**

We pray above all that:

- God's name will be glorified throughout our Circuit
- our worship may be offered in spirit and in truth
- our witness may display the depth and breadth of God's love for all
- that our service may be given freely and with compassion

This version: 17.8.2023

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