

## **BARNSELY METHODIST CIRCUIT MISSION STATEMENT**

**The mission of the Barnsley Methodist Circuit is to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ by encouraging, resourcing and enabling the people and churches of the Circuit to serve their communities and the wider world.**

### **CIRCUIT PRIORITIES 2021 TO 2024**

**To fulfil our mission statement, our priorities link with the four elements of Our Calling.**

#### **WORSHIP: the Church exists to increase awareness of God's presence and to celebrate God's love**

The Circuit will:

- (a) encourage each Church to provide widely accessible worship opportunities across its chapels through a variety of styles, locations and times, and to encourage its people to take advantage of this variety
- (b) provide training to enable its people to lead services and other activities online, help chapels to install appropriate equipment for online activity and offer training to operate such equipment
- (c) enable its people to explore a calling to local preaching or worship leading, and provide appropriate training and resources to support them.

#### **LEARNING AND CARING: the Church exists to help people grow and learn as Christians, through mutual support and care**

The Circuit will:

- (a) provide opportunities for its people to explore their faith and discipleship
- (b) encourage, support and equip its people for growth and leadership
- (c) use its human and financial resources to encourage and equip its Churches to engage in mission.

#### **SERVICE: the Church exists to be a good neighbour to people in need and to challenge injustice**

The Circuit will:

- (a) encourage its people to respond to issues of social justice and engage with local and global communities
- (b) promote cross-Circuit initiatives, such as by supporting local foodbanks, development charities and committing to becoming an Eco Circuit
- (c) raise awareness across the Circuit of opportunities for service and engagement, especially through external groups seeking to meet the needs of local people.

#### **EVANGELISM: the Church exists to make more followers of Jesus Christ**

The Circuit will:

- (a) provide opportunities for people on the fringes of the Church to explore questions of spirituality, faith and discipleship
- (b) continue to promote, resource and develop the use of social media to engage and communicate across the Circuit and with a wider audience
- (c) support its Churches to identify and engage with "missing generations", e.g. children and young people, adults of working age, men, culturally diverse communities.

#### **Support**

In support of these priorities, the Circuit will:

- (a) work with ecumenical and other partners where opportunities arise
- (b) maintain and finance the six years staffing policy agreed by the June 2021 Circuit Meeting
- (c) work with its Churches to review the number of places of worship and their viability
- (d) encourage its Churches to review their activities in order to identify new missional opportunities, and those which may have fulfilled their purpose
- (e) continue to grow the new Circuit initiatives developed during 2020/21 alongside ongoing Circuit events and services.