

Barnsley **Methodist** Circuit



# Mission Plan 2021 - 2024 Priorities and Actions



**WORSHIP**

**LEARNING & CARING**

**SERVICE**

**EVANGELISM**

## WORSHIP

The Church exists to increase awareness of God's presence and to celebrate God's love, and the Circuit will ...

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, by

- ❖ *Annually asking each Church Council to provide details of at least 3 **alternative worship opportunities***
- ❖ ***Sharing details** of these and other opportunities through the Circuit website, Facebook, quarterly Newsletter and weekly notices*
- ❖ ***Arranging training** for Churches and preachers about alternative styles and ways of worshipping*

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, by

- ❖ ***Arranging training** for Local Preachers, Worship Leaders and others who wish to lead worship and activities online*
- ❖ *Where requested, **helping chapels to install equipment** for online activities and worship, and **arranging training** to use the equipment*

Enable its people to explore a calling to local preaching or worship leading, and provide appropriate training and resources to support them, by

- ❖ *Providing an event for anyone interested in finding out more about **being a Worship Leader or Local Preacher***
- ❖ *Holding a **Worship Leaders training course** each year*
- ❖ *Providing a short session to encourage and enable existing Local Preachers to act as **mentors to new Local Preachers and Worship Leaders***

**“Worship the Lord with gladness;  
come before the Lord with joyful songs.”**

# LEARNING & CARING

**The Church exists to help people grow and learn as Christians, through mutual support and care, and the Circuit will ...**

**Provide opportunities for its people to explore their faith and discipleship, by**

- ❖ *Arranging Circuit-wide opportunities for people to **explore and strengthen their faith and calling** through courses such as Alpha*
- ❖ *Arranging **Bible Study and Fellowship Groups** during Advent and Lent each year, and at other times where appropriate*
- ❖ *Developing study, worship and action that follows the **Holy Habits programme***

**Encourage, support and equip its people for growth, nurture and leadership, by**

- ❖ *Appointing **part-time lay workers** for the North East and North West Churches to support pastoral care and nurture*
- ❖ *Appointing a **minister with responsibility for growth, nurture and discipleship** from September 2022*
- ❖ *Identifying **training needs** within Churches and Chapels and providing appropriate training*

**Use its human and financial resources to encourage and equip its Churches to engage in mission, by**

- ❖ *Setting aside £15,000 annually to be available to allocate to Churches which identify **projects** to help them engage in mission in their local communities*
- ❖ *Reviewing and refreshing the use of the **Mission Fund***
- ❖ *Organising an annual event to provide challenge and inspiration about **mission opportunities***

**“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for it me.”**

## Mission Plan Priorities 2021 - 2024

The Circuit has agreed 12 Mission Priorities related to the four aspects of Our Calling. Each one has several Actions on which regular reports will be shared with the Circuit Meeting and in the Circuit Newsletter.

### WORSHIP

The Circuit will:

- ❖ encourage accessible and varied worship opportunities
- ❖ provide online activities' training, and help to install equipment
- ❖ enable people to explore a calling to local preaching or worship leading

### LEARNING & CARING

The Circuit will:

- ❖ provide opportunities to explore faith and discipleship
- ❖ equip people for growth and leadership
- ❖ encourage and equip Churches to engage in mission

### SERVICE

The Circuit will:

- ❖ encourage responses to issues of social justice
- ❖ promote cross-Circuit initiatives, such as foodbanks, development charities, becoming an Eco Circuit
- ❖ raise awareness of local opportunities for service

### EVANGELISM

The Circuit will:

- ❖ provide opportunities for people on the fringes of the Church to explore spirituality, faith & discipleship
- ❖ engage wider audiences through social media
- ❖ support engagement with "missing generations", e.g. children and young people, working age adults, men, culturally diverse communities.

## SERVICE

**The Church exists to be a good neighbour to people in need and to challenge injustice, and the Circuit will ...**

**Encourage its people to respond to issues of social justice and engage with local and global communities, by**

- ❖ *Making **Joint Public Issues Team resources** available across the Circuit*
- ❖ *Providing **resources on social justice themes** for local arrangement services (scripted services) and study sessions for use by chapels*

**Promote cross-Circuit initiatives, such as by supporting local foodbanks, development charities and committing to becoming an Eco Circuit, by**

- ❖ *Identifying the requirements to become an **EcoCircuit**, providing resources and training to enable Churches and the Circuit to fulfil them*
- ❖ *Renewing the commitment to **Fairtrade** status of Churches and the Circuit*
- ❖ ***Identifying initiatives** which the Circuit could support, at least one each year*

**Raising awareness across the Circuit of opportunities for service and engagement, especially through external groups seeking to meet the needs of local people, by**

- ❖ *Providing space in **every Circuit Newsletter to focus** on the work of one group in Barnsley seeking to meet the needs of local people*
- ❖ *Sharing information through the Circuit's various means of communication about **local groups seeking volunteers**, and the help and support they need*

**"The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve."**

# EVANGELISM

**The Church exists to make more followers of Jesus Christ, and the Circuit will ...**

**Provide opportunities for people on the fringes of the Church to explore questions of spirituality, faith and discipleship, by**

- ❖ *Providing training and resources to help chapels to offer a **positive invitation** to people and to be **genuinely welcoming***
- ❖ *Sharing across the Circuit **positive and encouraging information** about events and initiatives*

**Continue to promote, resource and develop the use of social media to engage and communicate across the Circuit and with a wider audience, by**

- ❖ ***Reviewing current Circuit activity** on social media, including responses to and engagement with it*
- ❖ *Implementing necessary **changes to current practice***
- ❖ ***Arranging training** for those interested in being involved in the development of this communication, and encouraging their further involvement*

**Support its Churches to identify and engage with “missing generations”, e.g. children and young people, adults of working age, men, culturally diverse communities, by**

- ❖ *Appointing a **minister with responsibility for growth, nurture and discipleship** from September 2022*
- ❖ *Establishing a **group of people called to this priority**, to work with that minister on new initiatives when they arrive*

**"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations."**

This booklet sets out the 12 Mission Priorities the Circuit has agreed, which are related to the four aspects of Our Calling, and the Actions planned to achieve them.

## What happens next?

The Circuit Leadership Team is responsible for overseeing the achievement of the Plan, and will report regularly to the Circuit Meeting and in the Circuit Newsletter. It will also review the Plan each year to ensure that it is still meeting the Circuit's needs.

## What can you do?

There are many ways for you to get involved in the Actions in this Mission Plan. There's something here for everyone. You might like to consider ...

- ❖ Is God calling you to lead worship? Would you like to discuss that with someone?
- ❖ Would you like to experience different styles of worship?
- ❖ Do you feel you would benefit from joining a group to help strengthen your faith, or to understand the Bible better?
- ❖ Will you follow the Holy Habits programme?
- ❖ Could you be part of a planning group e.g the Eco Circuit group?
- ❖ Have you considered volunteering for one of the many groups supporting our local communities? If not, is something holding you back?
- ❖ Why not join our growing Facebook group - **Barnsley Methodist Community?**
- ❖ Would you like to join the group working with the new minister on engaging the "missing generations"?
- ❖ Have you visited another chapel in our circuit recently to see what happens there?

Why not discuss these questions, and any other ideas you may have, with your minister and your chapel's leaders?

**For more information go to [barnsleymethodist.org.uk](http://barnsleymethodist.org.uk), or contact the Barnsley Circuit Office on 01226 321522.**