



Barnsley Methodist Circuit Mission Plan 2024 - 2027

Our Hopes and Dreams



SERVICE

WORSHIP

LEARNING & CARING

EVANGELISM

Our Hopes & Dreams for

WORSHIP

The Church exists to increase awareness of God's presence and to celebrate God's love, and during 2024 to 2027 the Circuit will ...

Encourage each Church to provide widely accessible opportunities to encounter God across its chapels through a variety of styles, locations and times, and to encourage its people to take advantage of this variety, by

- ❖ *Inviting each Church Council to arrange at least 3 **worship opportunities** each year offering **alternative styles, locations, times or days***
- ❖ *Continuing to improve the **sharing of details** of opportunities through the Circuit website, weekly "What's On", Facebook and quarterly Newsletter*
- ❖ ***Arranging opportunities and resources** for Churches, chapels, Worship Leaders and Local Preachers about **alternative styles** and ways of worshipping*
- ❖ ***Arranging training** for Local Preachers, Worship Leaders and others who wish to lead worship, study groups or other online activities*

Encourage and promote a rich prayer life throughout the Circuit's Churches, chapels and individuals, by

- ❖ *Providing a **Circuit prayer diary** of prayer resources and suggestions, both online and in a booklet*

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 **Worship Leaders courses** in the first year and as required*
- ❖ *Providing a short session to encourage and enable existing Local Preachers to act as **mentors to new Local Preachers and Worship Leaders***

Our Hopes & Dreams for

LEARNING & CARING

The Church exists to help people grow and learn as Christians, through mutual support and care, and in 2024 to 2027 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 activities to enable the relaunch of the **Methodist Way of Life** in the Circuit*

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

- ❖ ***Reviewing the work and opportunities** of each Church's nurture and pastoral care workers and other lay workers*
- ❖ *Appointing a Circuit **minister with responsibility for growth, nurture and discipleship** from September 2025 for three years*
- ❖ *Identifying **opportunities and support** needed within Churches and Chapels and providing appropriate resources*
- ❖ *Providing **learning resources** to promote and encourage exploration of **what it means to be a member***

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

- ❖ *Continuing to make available £15,000 annually to allocate in **small grants** to Churches which identify **projects** to help them engage in mission, and to maintain a **Mission Fund** for larger projects*
- ❖ *Organising occasional events to provide challenge and inspiration about **mission opportunities***

Barnsley Methodist Circuit

Mission Plan Priorities 2024 - 2027

Our Hopes & Dreams for

WORSHIP

The Circuit will:

- ❖ encourage accessible & varied opportunities to encounter God
- ❖ enable people to explore a calling to local preaching or worship leading
- ❖ promote a rich prayer life throughout the Circuit

LEARNING & CARING

The Circuit will:

- ❖ provide opportunities to explore faith and discipleship
- ❖ support and equip people for growth, nurture 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 by supporting foodbanks, development charities and 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 chapels and wider audiences through social media
- ❖ engage "missing generations", e.g. children & young people, working age adults, men, culturally diverse communities

Our Hopes & Dreams for

SERVICE

The Church exists to be a good neighbour to people in need and to challenge injustice, and during 2024 to 2027 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** regularly available*
- ❖ *Providing worship and study session **resources on social justice themes** for chapels and preachers*

Promote cross-Circuit initiatives, such as by supporting local foodbanks, 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*
- ❖ *Maintaining the commitment to **Fairtrade** status of Churches and the Circuit, and **ensuring compliance** with the requirements*
- ❖ ***Identifying** at least **one initiative each year** which the Circuit, Churches and chapels could support, in addition to encouraging continued support of Foodbanks, Warm Welcomes, All We Can, and other causes*

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 **each Circuit Newsletter** for one Church or the Circuit Leadership Team to focus on their **work seeking to meet local needs***
- ❖ *Providing **news in each Circuit Newsletter** focussing on one of the **four strands of this Mission Plan***
- ❖ *Sharing information through the Circuit's various means of communication about **local groups in need of volunteers, help and support***

Our Hopes & Dreams for

EVANGELISM

The Church exists to make more followers of Jesus Christ, and in 2024 to 2027 the Circuit will ...

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

- ❖ *Providing opportunities and resources to help chapels 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 and developing current Circuit social media activity** to raise the community profile of chapel activities*
- ❖ *Encouraging the **sharing of local good news** in worship services*
- ❖ ***Arranging training** for those interested 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

- ❖ ***Reviewing** the extent across the Circuit of **current activity** reaching out to "**missing generations**", and encouraging **new work** where needed*

Our Hopes & Dreams

This booklet sets out the 12 Mission Priorities the Circuit has agreed in this new Plan, which are related to the four aspects of Our Calling, and the Actions planned to achieve them. These are our *Hopes & Dreams*. The full detail of the Plan is available from the Circuit Office.

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?
- ❖ Could you be part of a planning group e.g an 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?**
- ❖ Have you visited another chapel in our circuit recently to see what happens there?

Why not discuss these questions, and any other *Hopes & Dreams* you may have, with your minister and your chapel leaders?

For more information go to barnsleymethodist.org.uk, or contact the Barnsley Circuit Office on 01226 321522.