



Manchester Circuit Mission Plan 2023: Seeking, serving, sharing Christ

What is the circuit for? One answer to that question is found in our ‘book of guidance’, CPD: *The Circuit is the primary unit in which Local Churches express and experience their interconnexion in the Body of Christ, for purposes of mission, mutual encouragement and help*

How is the Manchester Circuit to fulfil this role in the coming years, in our diverse urban environments? Following a period of consultation, we recognise the Spirit working amongst us in many ways, as we share the common purpose of seeking, serving and sharing Jesus Christ in the multiple contexts of the city, through attentive prayerfulness and service.

The Manchester Circuit affirms the four priorities for the Methodist Church as a means of sharing the good news of Jesus and growing disciples:

Worship: we long for Spirit-filled worship which enables worshippers to recognise and acknowledge God’s presence and to know God’s purpose for them as part of the wider community, inside and outside church

Service: we seek to follow Jesus in seeking justice, standing alongside the many disadvantaged people of this city in loving service, and challenging more privileged people to join with us in this

Learning and Caring: we aim to use our resources effectively to equip people to grow in discipleship

Evangelism: we look for engaging, context-appropriate ways to share the Good News of Jesus Christ and to invite people to join us in following him.

We also acknowledge our role in supporting one another to achieve good governance in the circuit and its churches.

We pray that God will use us as channels for the gifts and graces of the Holy Spirit, especially those which are the distinctive characteristics of the Methodist people: holiness, a passion to overcome injustice and to build genuinely inclusive communities.

What steps can we take as a circuit to put this into practice?

A. Worship

Acts of Worship	To arrange acts of worship for the whole circuit as the situation requires.
Resourcing Worship	To identify and train new local preachers and worship leaders reflecting the diversity of the circuit, and to arrange opportunities for existing preachers and worship leaders to engage in theological reflection and learning. To liaise with the Learning Network to offer opportunities for churches to discover alternative ways of worshipping.
New Places for New People	We will engage with the Caleb Initiative with the intention to set up new worshipping communities – either face to face or virtual. This will initially be connected to the work at Trinity but other churches are welcome to join in.



B. Service

Social Justice	<p>To affirm the experience of people linked to the circuit who live with injustice, including but not limited to racial, gender, LGBTQ+ and disability injustice, and to create opportunities for local churches to hear and learn from this experience.</p> <p>To promote the Connexional ‘Justice, Dignity and Solidarity’ initiative and provide suitable training.</p> <p>To encourage local churches to think creatively about how to respond to their context missionally and practically.</p> <p>To offer whatever support we can to local church initiatives which are inclusive and build more just communities.</p> <p>To enable local justice practitioners to collaborate and share ideas.</p>
Climate Justice	<p>To take part as appropriate in wider actions and events addressing climate justice.</p> <p>To support local churches in reducing their carbon footprint.</p> <p>To challenge all those associated with the circuit to consider their personal carbon footprint.</p>
Outreach	<p>To support, publicise and regularly review existing circuit projects: Befrienders, Nexus and the Ancoats Renewal Centre (Trinity). To be alert to the potential for new circuit projects.</p>

C. Learning & Caring

Discipleship	<p>To create circuit-wide opportunities for people to reflect together on their discipleship, using resources such as the Methodist Way of Life to deepen our discipleship.</p>
Generous Living	<p>To challenge churches and their members to generous discipleship and build an ethos of giving to support the churches’ work.</p>
Pastoral Care and Mission	<p>To provide training to support the circuit’s pastoral leaders in fulfilling their roles missionally.</p>

D. Evangelism

Children and Families Work	<p>To support those churches who wish to undertake work with children and families by developing a community of practice across the circuit under the leadership of a lay or ordained member of staff.</p> <p>To arrange circuit-wide events for children and families, and to encourage their attendance at Connexional events such as 3Generate.</p>
Missional Outreach	<p>Building on the success of the various 20:20 initiatives supported by the circuit in 2023, strongly to encourage churches to undertake at least one activity annually, designed to invite their local community to engage with the good news of God’s love.</p>
God for All	<p>To be intentional about engaging with the Connexional God for All resources, both through circuit activity (eg. the Methodist Way of Life materials and Bible Month) and through ensuring local churches are aware of the available resources.</p>



University Work	To engage with and support whatever programmes are currently being run ecumenically to resource missional work to the universities within the circuit's footprint.
Digital Evangelism	To make effective use of the circuit's website and social media platforms as a way to share the good news of God's love with a wide audience.

E. Governance

Trusteeship	To ensure that the circuit council and the circuit meeting reflect the diversity of the circuit and are aware of their responsibilities as managing trustees. To maintain good links and communication between the circuit council and local churches through the appointment of circuit stewards to each church.
Finance	To ensure that the finances of the circuit are effectively managed, with due attention to funding for local mission activity and an effective grants policy. To remind all members of their responsibility to take part in supporting the activities of the circuit as they are able, and to conduct periodic stewardship campaigns.
Property	To maintain the circuit's property to a good standard, and to implement a flexible programme of sales and purchases to release funds for local mission and provide premises that fit the circuit's needs and are eco-friendly. To offer support to local churches where necessary through the advice of the property group.
Safeguarding	To maintain the appointment of a suitably qualified circuit safeguarding officer and offer them appropriate support in ensuring that good-quality training is regularly available To do our best to model good safeguarding practice across the circuit.
Employees and volunteers	To ensure that all circuit employees are recruited and line managed in line with current legislation and Connexional and District guidance. To retain the services of an external HR provider to resource this. To ensure that all volunteers are recruited safely and appropriately supported in their roles, in line with current Connexional and District guidance. To provide the resources that circuit staff and volunteers need to make them as effective as possible.
Communication	To share information about the work of the circuit as widely as possible. To alert local churches to relevant developments in the wider community. To maintain the appointment of a community engagement officer to undertake this.

To be reviewed for the circuit council of July 2023 and the circuit meeting of September 2023 and then annually thereafter.