

Draft 2

*Circuit Purpose & Action
Plan for
2025 - 2030*



WORSHIP

EVANGELISM

LEARNING & CARING

SERVICE

Circuit Purpose & Action Plan for 2025 - 2030

The Sankey Valley Methodist Circuit actively seeks to celebrate and share the unconditional love of God by encouraging, resourcing and enabling the people and churches of the circuit to serve their communities and the wider world. We will do this in the following ways:

WORSHIP

- ❖ Support churches that seek to provide alternative styles of worship, locations and times.
- ❖ Support prayer initiatives throughout the Circuit.
- ❖ Encourage people to explore a calling to Local Preaching / Worship Leading / Ministry.
- ❖ Continue to develop livestreaming across the circuit.

EVANGELISM

- ❖ Encourage "intentional evangelism" and "micro-mission activities".
- ❖ Affirm, by equipping and encouraging, our belief that everyone is called to be an evangelist.
- ❖ Explore the opportunities of engaging with the connexional "God For All" Evangelism and Growth Strategy.
- ❖ Use our human and financial resources to encourage and equip its churches to engage in mission.

LEARNING & CARING

- ❖ Provide opportunities for people to learn & grow in faith & discipleship.
- ❖ Encourage & support Churches in the pastoral care & nurture of church members & people in their local community.
- ❖ Use human & financial resources to encourage and equip Churches in sharing the Good News of Jesus.

SERVICE

- ❖ Encourage churches to impact beyond the walls of our buildings.
- ❖ Commit itself to become more environmentally sustainable.
- ❖ Support local churches and their communities.

Our Purpose & Action for

WORSHIP

The church exists to increase awareness of God's presence and to celebrate God's love, and during 2025 – 2030 the Circuit will ...

Support churches that seek to provide alternative styles of worship, locations and times, by

- ❖ *Flexibility in planning.*
- ❖ *Encourage preachers/ministers to offer more appointments when services are at different times.*
- ❖ *Arranging training for Local Preachers / Worship Leaders / Ministers in alternative styles of worship.*
- ❖ *Encourage and help churches that wish to worship in different locations.*

Support prayer initiatives throughout the Circuit, by

- ❖ *Continuing to organize a weekly Circuit Prayer Diary in the plan booklet for use on a Sunday.*
- ❖ *Provide resources and suggestions for in-church, online and in person prayer.*

Encourage people to explore a calling to Local Preaching / Worship Leading / Ministry, by

- ❖ *One-to-one discussions with people who feel God is calling them into these vocations.*
- ❖ *Encouraging people to consider their calling though worship, LP/WL meetings.*
- ❖ *Support people in the process of becoming Local Preachers / Worship Leaders.*
- ❖ *Encourage churches to pray for those exploring these ministries.*

Continue to develop livestreaming across the circuit, by

- ❖ *Exploring ways to enable churches to join in live-streamed services more effectively.*
- ❖ *Exploring opportunities to live-stream to other establishments such as care homes.*

Our Purpose & Action for

EVANGELISM

The church exists to make more followers of Jesus Christ and during 2025 – 2030 the Circuit will ...

Encourage “intentional evangelism” and “micro-mission activities” by

- ❖ *Supporting local churches to review how every event can be an evangelistic opportunity.*
- ❖ *Inviting each congregation to assess what their building “says” about the good news of God’s unconditional love when people visit or use the facility.*
- ❖ *Informing, encouraging and where possible help to resource, imaginative and creative, possibly one-off, micro-mission activities.*

Affirm, by equipping and encouraging, our belief that everyone is called to be an evangelist by

- ❖ *Providing training through courses such as “Talking of God Together”, designed to increase ability and confidence to hold faith-based conversations both inside and outside the church.*
- ❖ *Creating opportunities for mutual encouragement and celebration through the sharing of individual testimony and examples of faith-sharing opportunities, perhaps through regular Circuit “Celebration Services”.*

Explore the opportunities of engaging with the connexional “God For All” Evangelism and Growth Strategy by

- ❖ *Increasing awareness of “New People for New Places” resources and funding and how they could impact church and circuit.*
- ❖ *Sourcing experience and support for the further development and establishment of digital and on-line church.*

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

- ❖ *Continuing to make available grants to churches that identify projects to help them engage in mission and signpost other sources of funding.*
- ❖ *Organising occasional events to provide challenge and inspiration about mission opportunities.*

Our Purpose & Action for

LEARNING & CARING

The Church exists to help people to learn and grow as Christians, and to share the Good News of Jesus with others, and during 2025-2030 the Circuit will...

Provide opportunities for people to learn & grow in faith & discipleship, by

- ❖ *Arranging & co-ordinating regular opportunities for prayer and bible study (in-person & on-line) across the Circuit.*
- ❖ *Organising specific training on faith sharing using materials such as Frontline (LICC), Everyone an Evangelist (MCUK).*
- ❖ *Promoting and supporting the use of the "Methodist Way of Life".*

Encourage & support Churches in the pastoral care & nurture of church members & people in their local community, by

- ❖ *Organising a review/sharing of the current practices of pastoral care and nurture in Circuit Churches to identify ways of improving the connection with, and support of, people of all ages.*
- ❖ *Providing training and resourcing for churches to carry out a community audit.*
- ❖ *Promoting opportunities for people to meet and share in person & on-line.*

Use human & financial resources to encourage and equip Churches in sharing the Good News of Jesus, by

- ❖ *Arranging training opportunities that support the development of lay leadership roles (leading small groups, community engagement, stewardship & governance issues etc).*
- ❖ *Promoting ways of putting into practice being Justice Seeking Churches in partnership with others (e.g. Food/Fuel poverty initiatives, Warm Welcome, and support for Asylum Seekers/refugees).*

Our Purpose & Action for

SERVICE

The Church exists to be a good neighbour to people in need and to challenge injustice, and during 2025–2030 the Circuit will ...

Encourage churches to impact beyond the walls of our buildings by

- ❖ *Becoming a Fairtrade Circuit.*
- ❖ *Continuing to support Circuit charities.*
- ❖ *Supporting: initiatives that use technology to connect with people; new community activity groups (such as walking, friendship, social justice, etc)*
- ❖ *Supporting churches to explore service in their communities without church owned buildings, possibly one-off, micro-mission activities.*

Commit itself to become more environmentally sustainable, by

- ❖ *Supporting projects towards becoming carbon neutral by 2030, (e.g. eco congregations) and, where it is practically attainable, through circuit grants.*
- ❖ *All manse to achieve an energy rating of a minimum of "C" and higher where it is not cost prohibitive to do so.*

Support local churches and their communities, by

- ❖ *Improving the quality of communication: sharing good news stories and best practices; using podcasts to connect with people; develop our Circuit website and social media to better serve ourselves and others.*
- ❖ *Developing partnerships within the Circuit; explore whether merging churches can serve communities better; prioritise Circuit-wide initiatives through grants.*
- ❖ *Circuit owned properties to be situated where they can best serve communities.*
- ❖ *Review staffing levels to reflect the needs and circumstances of the Circuit and explore alternatives to ordained leadership, e.g. Local Lay Pastors.*

This booklet sets out the four mission priorities that the circuit has agreed for our Strategic Plan. They relate to the four aspects of the Methodist Church “Our Calling” and detail what actions the circuit will take over the next 5 years to deliver them.

These are our *Purpose & Action*.

What happens next?

The Circuit Leadership Team is responsible for overseeing the achievement of the Plan and will report progress regularly to the Circuit Meeting. It will also review and update the Plan each year to ensure it is still meeting the needs of the Circuit.

What can you do?

There are many ways for you to get involved in the actions arising from this Circuit Purpose and Action Plan. There is something for everyone. You might like to consider

- ❖ Being part of one of the 4 ACTION GROUPS that will help implement the Plan
- ❖ Becoming a Circuit Steward.
- ❖ Leading worship through local preaching or becoming a worship leader in your church. Do you feel God calling you into this ministry? Why not discuss this with your minister?
- ❖ Leading or joining a group aimed at developing faith, understanding the Bible better, or helping you to speak about faith to others.
- ❖ Planning for eco-readiness.
- ❖ Arranging for your church to become a fairtrade church.
- ❖ Volunteering in a community group.
- ❖ Developing a new group in your community, such as walking, social justice, etc.
- ❖ Joining the circuit facebook group.
- ❖ Visiting other churches in the circuit to see what happens there.

There are many more opportunities to get involved outlined in this Purpose and Action Plan. If you have any questions or suggestions, please speak to your minister or a circuit steward.

CIRCUIT MISSION GRANTS:

All Circuit Churches can apply for grants from the Circuit that can help fund mission and ministry activities from as little as a few hundred pounds up to £10,000+. There is a simple application process using the following criteria; a clear description of the project and how it relates to the Church’s mission & ministry; its aims and anticipated results; a cost breakdown; the Church’s current financial position & reserves; consideration of other possible sources of funding.

For more information, please speak to your minister or a circuit steward.