

Rotherham and Dearne Valley Methodist Circuit

Circuit Mission Plan 2026

Our Calling: ‘The calling of the Methodist Church is to respond to God’s love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission. It does this through Worship, Learning and Caring, Service and Evangelism’. The Rotherham and Dearne Valley Methodist Circuit has the following Mission Plan grounded in prayer and framed by ‘A Methodist Way of Life’.

Encouraging New Ways of Worship	Current Circuit Targets
Pray <i>(We pray daily)</i> - offer locally-tailored opportunities to meet, pray and learn together. - promote courses and approaches to build confidence in prayer. Worship <i>(We worship with others regularly)</i> - offer a variety of approaches to celebratory worship. - develop collaboration in worship across congregations through united services and online worship. - explore local worship partnerships with other denominations where appropriate. - encourage all people to be active participants in worship using their gifts. - encourage the call to preach and support those training through Worship:Leading and Preaching Notice<i>(We notice God in Scripture and the world)</i> - all congregations to have access to Biblically-based nurture.	Pray - pray daily for Circuit leaders (staff and stewards) - pray across the week for the Circuit’s churches. - participate in Arise Rotherham prayer walking initiative Worship - more opportunities for joint services within the circuit that are joyful, thankful, connected to daily life, with good music and testimony - more opportunities for ecumenical worship such as Easter sunrise service and on fifth Sundays. - recruit and support new Worship Leaders and Preachers. - develop a variety of styles across the Circuit (like different radio stations emphases). Notice - continue to implement Bible Month and regular studies - encourage sharing of information about walking groups and other ways to notice God in the world.

Exploring Opportunities for Service

Serve*(We will help people in locally and beyond)*

- make effective use of our **buildings** for serving our local community.

Flourish*(We care for creation and all God's gifts)*

- respond to the challenges of the **Climate Crisis** personally and collectively.

Challenge *(We challenge injustice)*

- support **Fairtrade** through our collective and individual purchasing.
- encourage **communication** with local and national politicians on issues of justice.

Current Circuit Targets

Serve

- encourage members involvement in serving in projects in other areas of the circuit.
- develop approaches to addressing loneliness/isolation.

Flourish

- support churches in participating in the Eco Church programme

Challenge

- consider sending a team on Faith Rooted Community Organising training
- support existing work with people 'at the Margins'.

Engaging with Others in Evangelism	Current Circuit Targets
Tell <i>(We tell of the love of God)</i> • develop members as people who can speak confidently about their faith within existing relationships. Share <i>(We share our faith)</i> • provide a range of opportunities for people of all ages to say yes to God in Christ. • improve communication and advertising using digital means. • support an initiative in exploring faith with non-church people. Live <i>(We live in a way that draws people to Jesus)</i> • embed A Methodist Way of Life as a way of living as disciples • enable others to experience God’s love in action.	Tell • recruit volunteers for teams at local and national festivals. • identify natural evangelists. Share • hold a Circuit Alpha Course • create a knitted gospel display • add to Circuit website a section about what we believe and what we do. • help to facilitate online access to worship and other events. • develop schools work. Live • use MWOL language to aid familiarity with this approach to living as disciples.

Enabling Learning and Caring	Current Circuit Targets
Care<i>(We care for ourselves and those around us)</i> • work to recognise and address wellbeing needs of people and communities (both local and global.) • sustain and develop activities for children and families. Learn <i>(We learn more about our faith)</i> • equip members for particular aspects of ministry and mission, eg. pastoral care, children's work. Open <i>(We practise hospitality and generosity)</i> • offer pastoral care through paid and volunteer visitors. • provide safe and welcoming spaces for people of all ages to learn about God's love.	Care • learn the signs of burnout/incapacity in our people and act when we see them. • have a meetings sabbath period. • help to resource youth groups with what they need. Learn • offer introductory training about MWOL stations • run 'On the Way' course when available. • use survey data to identify Circuit training opportunities. Open • provide safeguarding training for those who need it.

Alongside our circuit-wide targets, we will equip each church to develop their mission plan; to work towards targets under each of the four headings and to review progress after 12 months.

We will evaluate what we need to bring to God's mission in terms of money, premises, skills and other resources.