

## Circuit Memorials to Conference

### *Sheffield Circuit*

The Sheffield Circuit asks Conference to give thanks for individuals and churches in Britain and Europe who are engaged with the plight of refugees from the Middle East and elsewhere. We give thanks, too, for Sheffield as the first City of Sanctuary, launched in 2005 and for all who work to support sanctuary in Sheffield and beyond. We regret however that to date, the response of the UK government has been limited to an arms-length approach. We ask Conference to urge the government to an immediate review of the following key policies so that the UK may take its place alongside those countries doing so much more:

1. Widening the offer of access to refugees to include those who have been forced to flee their country using whatever means they can and including those already in Europe;
2. Accepting without delay those unaccompanied minors in Calais/Dunkirk who have family ties in the UK, and additionally taking a share of the wider group of unaccompanied children in Europe who are otherwise at risk of trafficking and crime;
3. An immediate ending of the policy of revoking the right to remain for minors who attain the age of 18 years.

Finally, we call upon the government to engage with urgency in efforts to promote peace with justice in Syria and neighbouring countries.

Voting: Present: **85**; For: **83**; Against: **0**

## ***Doncaster Circuit***

The Doncaster Circuit asks Conference to give thanks for individuals and churches in Britain and Europe who are engaged with the plight of refugees from the Middle East and elsewhere. We regret however that to date, the response of the UK government has been limited to an arms-length approach. We ask Conference to urge the government to an immediate review of the following key policies so that the UK may take its place alongside those countries doing so much more:

1. Widening the offer of access to refugees to include those who have been forced to flee their country using whatever means they can and including those already in Europe;
2. Accepting without delay those unaccompanied minors in Calais/Dunkirk who have family ties in the UK, and additionally taking a share of the wider group of unaccompanied children in Europe who are otherwise at risk of trafficking and crime in conjunction with the Home For Good Initiative;
3. An immediate ending of the policy of revoking the right to remain for minors who attain the age of 18 years.

Finally, we call upon the government to engage with urgency in efforts to promote peace with justice in Syria and neighbouring countries.

Voting: Present: **59**; For: **55**; Against: **0**; Abstaining: **4**

## ***Rotherham and Dearne Valley Circuit***

### **Financial Policy and Strategy at Methodist Church**

The Rotherham and Dearne Valley Circuit's Meeting is concerned at the manner in which large sums of money are requested of the circuit by either the Connexion or the District. There are particular concerns when these requests increase year on year. These amounts are requested, usually through the Circuit Treasurer, and many churches are seriously challenged with raising the amounts requested and frequently fail to understand the usage of these funds.

In the Rotherham and Dearne Valley Circuit we are experiencing shrinking memberships, as so many other Circuits are. Over the last decade so many churches have closed. This has obviously made large decreases in funds available for local work, let alone the connexion or district. It is not just small churches who are affected in this way.

We believe that the primary purpose of mission and worship of and in the church is the key activity. In order to achieve this we need to retain Ministry in these areas, which will be denied if funds are primarily passed to the District and Connexion.

What is the strategy and policy of the Connexion in these and the districts? We are concerned that these important issues we highlight will be lost in the local contact. Surely as membership and buildings reduce, there is less to maintain and govern, therefore the cost of personnel and buildings to manage District and Connexion will reduce accordingly - how could this be shared?

Voting: Present: **48**; For: **48**; Against: **0**

## ***Bolsover & Staveley Circuit***

**The Circuit Meeting** recognises the hard work of those who work on behalf of us all in the Connexional Team and are grateful, in particular, for the opportunities provided by the DMLN staff in the regions. The Circuit Meeting requests, however, that Conference recognise the dwindling numbers in our aging congregations, causing us to struggle financially. Therefore, we ask Conference to reduce, or at least cap at 0%, the Connexional budget that is being brought to this Conference. We are concerned that any increase will be detrimental to the resourcing of existing or future ministry in local contexts around the country, and that decisions made regarding the Connexional budget be made in the knowledge that such contributions to the Assessment are unsustainable.

Voting: Present: **46**; For: **40**; Against: **6**.