

With **God's** Help I will.... **care for** **myself whilst** **supporting others**

Stories from around Sheffield Methodist District

Barnsley, Derbyshire North East, Doncaster, Rotherham &
Dearne Valley, Sheffield, Trinity and Peak Circuits



PASSIONATE CONTEXTUAL WORSHIP

A Prayer for Synod

Almighty God

We thank you for the opportunity to serve you in various ways in our districts, circuits and churches.

We gather together today
as your children, called to serve.

Thank you that you are with us
in all we do today, tomorrow and the days ahead.

Gracious Lord

fill our hearts with your love and peace.

Help us to grow in faith and love,

help us to be a source of encouragement and support to each other.

We pray for the Chair of our District and District Officers

Superintendents and Circuit Ministers

Circuit Stewards and Church Stewards

and all other volunteers.

Guide and give them wisdom and insight.

Almighty God,

we pray for our churches,

continue to fill our churches with your presence,

may your grace and love flow freely among us.

Help us to grow in faith and love,

as beacons of light and hope in our community.

Gracious Lord,

we pray for the community.

Bless and strengthen all in need.

Help us to be a source of love, hope,

and encouragement to all those who come to our churches.

May they find a place of refuge and healing,

help us to be mindful of their needs!

May we be proactive in meeting these needs.

Gracious God,

help us to be good stewards of the resources that you have given us,

and use them in a way that furthers your kingdom.

You call us to be a light in the world,

help us to support our communities

and all those who seek to grow in faith.

- Amen-

Rev. Margaret Mwaitu – Synod Secretary.

GILL ON TOUR

In June 2023, District Chair Gill Newton became the President of the Methodist Conference and since then has been touring the Methodist Connexion visiting churches, projects, and communities seeking to discover hidden treasures!

Gill has been sharing a blog with us every month about where she has been and what she has discovered there.

She said: "My Presidential year is almost at an end, but it has been an honour and a privilege to serve the Methodist Church in this way. Alongside Kerry as Vice President we have learnt and experienced so much of God's amazing love through the projects we have visited and the people we have met and also discovered things about ourselves and our faith.

"I have visited many places including the Isle of Man, Wolverhampton, Manchester, Stockport, Newcastle, London, Shetland, Cornwall, Lancashire, Vienna and a little closer to home the Yorkshire North and East District and the Sheffield District. I have also spent a lot of time on a train and there are still lots more visits to fit in before June 2024!

"I have had the chance to be the voice of the Methodist Church in world events speaking out against the atrocities' in Gaza, asking people to leave their 2nd Advent candle unlit and offering support to the Royal Family. Representing the Methodist Church at the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday was a moving experience with the silence being tangible. Our trip to Vienna for an ecumenical conference to celebrate 50 years of the Leuenberg Agreement, a covenant between protestant churches across Europe, was a wonderful experience of multilingual worship and challenging discussions on topics such as theological training, communication, diaconal work, and reconciliation. It was good to support each other in the challenges that we are all facing. I have also been able to speak on behalf of women in leadership in a BBC interview and have been interviewed by local radio stations on a number of occasions.

"Everywhere we have visited we have been offered a very warm welcome and great hospitality but more than that we have been humbled by amazing things we have seen and experienced and rejoice in all that God continues to do through the Methodist people.

"Hidden treasures are all around us, if we just take the time to notice."

To read the full story visit sheffieldmethodist.org



CHAIR'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends, I commend to you all of the articles in this Spring Edition of our magazine.

As you turn over you will be guided in how to take a holy walk around your own home using the suggestions outlined by Rev'd Nel Shallow, who will be the keynote speaker at our District Gathering.

In the pages that follow you can find out about the origins and purpose of the Carers Group at Harworth and read the stories of carers who have benefited from the support offered to them. Find out too about the circumstances that led to the launch of a Pizza Lunchtime School Holiday Project at Staincross in Barnsley. See how a seed sown many years earlier, when he was a curate in Ripley, bore fruit in Jonathan Brook's Pioneer Ministry in Bakewell, and be inspired by the ongoing community café at Clifton Methodist Church.

If you didn't get chance to see the Life on the Breadline Exhibition then you can read about the effect that it had on the three centres in the district that hosted it. Read about the community allotment in Sheffield and the way in which it is a growing space for people as well as for fruit and vegetables, and see how volunteers are being supported within the Trinity Circuit.

Take encouragement from the words of Jonathan Hood as he describes what has been learnt about listening to the local community and then taking risks and trying out new things as you share your faith.

Pages 12 and 13 give details of the 'How to ...' sessions that are planned for the District Gathering.

There are reflections by some of our District Staff and representatives from the Learning Network on pages 14 and 15, including information about creating a ONE Opportunity Project for your church – or applying to be an Intern if you are aged between 16-23.

Careful listening within your neighbourhood or local community forms the basis of the 'Who is your neighbour' initiative – and is essential practice for those developing New Beginnings. See the article on page 17 about the funding that is available to support experimentation within, and beyond, our churches.

Finally see the information about the District Team and the ways in which you can keep in touch, including by listening to the District Podcast 'Faith, Hope and The Journey'.

Flick back to this page and you can learn about Gill's travels around the Connexion and the wonderful opportunities she is encountering during her presidential year. We continue to pray for her and look forward to welcoming her back soon.

Grace and peace, Rev'd Julie Coates, District Chair



Doorways: stand or sit beside an outside door, or imagine an open doorway.

Psalm 24

Lift up your heads, O gates,
And be lifted up, ancient doors,
That the King of glory may come in.
Who is the King of glory?
The Lord strong and mighty'

This Psalm is traditionally sung on the first day of the week and is therefore a good Psalm for the beginning of our Camino.

The King of glory is present with you, strong and mighty.

An open doorway reminds us that God is here. The first sense that we are reflecting upon is touch. As children we were perhaps taught to pray with our hands together. This is a good posture as we feel the touch of our own hands joining together. Hold this posture for a moment, and then open your hands palms down to welcome the presence of God.

Pilgrimage of our Senses by Revd. Nel Shallow



I love the story of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15), and I especially love the phrase in v. 17 'he came to his senses'. The phrase in the Greek literally means, 'he came to himself', as though he has been absent or away from himself, which in a sense he has. We may use similar expressions, such as 'being pulled in too many directions' or 'not knowing whether we are coming or going'. We even say, 'I'm meeting myself coming back!'

'He came to himself' speaks of wholeness, and of returning to his complete self. The Prodigal Son chooses to return to his Father and so begins his journey home.

We too can make a pilgrimage of our senses. We will be making this journey together within the District Gathering as we explore how to care for ourselves, and how doing so enables us to care for others. But for those of us who are unable to attend the District Gathering we can also make this sensory journey at home.

Pilgrimage is a Christian tradition and in recent years there has been much attention given to walking a Camino. A Camino is a path, a way, a journey: a holy walk. More traditional Camino routes can be found in France and Spain however the practice of walking a Camino, and making space to think, pray, ponder, rest and eat, is not limited to geography. We can adopt these sacred practices even whilst staying within our own home.

I invite you to take a holy walk with God around your home. You can do this by walking slowly around your home or imagining the spaces whilst sitting in your chair. Take time to dwell in each location, journeying prayerfully within yourself and pausing to ponder.

Living: where is the living space in your home?

Rest a while in that place.

What can you see?

What can you hear?

Do other people gather in this space too? If so, who are they? Pray for them.

Spend some time being still.

Ponder the everyday activity of this space.

'Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong. And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is' (Ephesians 3)

Place your feet upon the ground and imagine being rooted in God's love; safe and secure. I wonder how such a sense of security may enable us to care for others.

Cooking: where do you cook? Or where do you eat? A kitchen, a dining table, or on your lap.

Preparing food is a humble service.
 What are you making today or what is being prepared for you?
 What's your favourite dish?
 What's on your shopping list as an essential these days?
 What do you not like to eat?
 Imagine the tastes and smells of a meal cooking. Or maybe spend time cooking a meal. Make a cup of tea or coffee. Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Martha was busy.
 Mary was still.
 (Luke 10)

both are good.
 both are blessed.
 but when Jesus needs us to sit awhile with Him then one is better.
 an essential.
 sit awhile.
 and pray.
 what's essential in my life with Jesus.
 what's better.
 I wonder what may be essential for others? Perhaps not the same essential as ours. There may be a better way for us to care for someone else.

'Lady Wisdom has built and furnished her home;
 it's supported by seven hewn timbers.
 The banquet meal is ready to be served:
 lamb roasted,
 wine poured out, table set with silver and flowers.
 Having dismissed her serving maids,
 Lady Wisdom goes to town, stands in a prominent place,
 and invites everyone within sound of her voice:

"Are you confused about life, don't know what's going on?
 Come with me, oh come, have dinner with me!
 I've prepared a wonderful spread—fresh-baked bread,
 roast lamb, carefully selected wines.
 Leave your impoverished confusion and live!
 Walk up the street to a life with meaning' (Proverbs 9)

Pray for wisdom to enable us to know the best and better way to care for others. How can we show hospitality within our churches or communities?

Bathroom

When you next take a bath or shower, consider the Psalmist's prayer...

'God, give me mercy from your fountain of forgiveness!

I know your abundant love is enough to wash away my guilt'

(Psalm 51)
 ... Wash me in your love
 ... Create a new, clean heart within me.

Is there a favourite fragrance that you enjoy: lavender or rose, pine or tea tree. Remember the woman who worshipped Jesus with perfume.

Give thanks to God for His mercy and forgiveness
 Soak in His grace
 Praise Him for salvation and redemption.

Now, I wonder who we may need to forgive? Who can we show mercy and grace towards?

Sleeping: where do you sleep?

As you settle to sleep consider these three life questions posed by Dawna Markova...

1. what is it too late for
2. what is it too soon for
3. what is it just the right time for

Entrust the answers to God.
 Know that in Him you are held in peace and safe keeping
 Resolve to begin anew your living for 'such a time as this' in the morning
 All is well
 You are loved.

I wonder how we can show love to those around us? What is this just the right time for in our care of others?

Windows: what is your favourite window view?

Look out of your windows at the world outside
 Notice the homes around you
 The sky above you
 The earth below.
 I wonder what you can hear?
 What can you see?

Pray for your neighbours
 Pray for your community
 Pray for your local hospital
 Pray for your church.
 Send prayerful blessings out into your neighbourhood.

Say the Lord's prayer
 Our Father in heaven,
 hallowed be your name,
 your kingdom come,
 your will be done,
 on earth as in heaven.
 Give us today our daily bread.
 Forgive us our sins
 as we forgive those who sin against us.
 Lead us not into temptation
 but deliver us from evil.
 For the kingdom, the power,
 and the glory are yours
 now and for ever.
 Amen.



This simple Camino within our own homes has taken us on a journey of caring for ourselves and caring for others; step by step. Only when we make space and time for God to care for us can our care of those around us flow from a place of holy love and grace.

Jesus says to us, 'love your neighbour as you love yourself' (Matthew 22). Taking precious moments to dwell in the love of God enables us to care more deeply for others. Often many of us run on empty, serving from a place of depletion. We are called by Jesus to 'Walk with me and work with me – watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace' (Matthew 11). On this Camino we have walked with the Lord, to enable us to work with Him. May our caring for others flow from the unforced rhythms of grace we have experienced in our own times of devotion and well-being.

Carers group at Harworth Methodist Church, Doncaster

Sean Worsley, a Lay Pastor in the Doncaster Circuit, and his wife Liz have been carers for their children for more than 20 years. They have experienced the isolation and misunderstanding that comes from being carers, as well as the stress and exhaustion experienced battling a system that is poorly funded and defensive towards those who try to access resources. This is how the carers group was started, Liz explains:

"The carers group started through talking to several people within Sean's churches, and discovering a number of carers who felt alone and isolated. One of the frequent comments we heard was that no one really understood what being a carer was like. Caring can be incredibly lonely, especially if you are reliant on public transport to get to places. Several people within the group drive, and so it was decided with the agreement of the church council at Harworth, that we would start the group in the village of a member who didn't drive, for their convenience and so that they felt supported and included. What we hope to see is that this group will grow to a point where we can split into two and plant another group at one of the city churches.

"The group meets every second Thursday of the month, at Harworth Methodist Church, from 10am to 12pm. At the moment we are also going out and about on alternate months to meet up at cafes or garden centres for coffee, cake and chats. Anyone who is a carer is invited to come, and if you cannot get respite, then the cared for person is welcome

too. We feel it is important that people feel there are no barriers to them attending.

"The sessions have no set agenda at present. We talk about the things that concern us, and if anyone has an issue then we draw on the groups experiences to try to support and help the person concerned. Where we struggle for answers, we have a Community Liaison Officer whose knowledge and contacts we can draw on. Harworth is unique within Doncaster Circuit by being in Nottinghamshire, so not everything can cross over in terms of knowledge to South Yorkshire, or even Doncaster City Council. However, we are working towards linking up with the relevant contacts there for the future."

Trish and Shelly have been part of the group for six months and both have found it useful having a cuppa with other people who understand what it's like to care for others.

Trish said: "I care full time for my mum and this group gives me a break from her and it makes me feel much better. We get to come out for a nice meal and I've made friends. It's good to talk as no one realises how hard and stressful it is to look after people."

Shelly is a mum of three boys, all with additional needs, she said: "I've been coming to the group since it started as I felt alone and was getting no support. I find caring can be so isolating and I was always battling for extra support. The group understands me and it's good to get together."

Liz added: "The importance of this group cannot be overstated. Carers feel isolated.

They must deal with an enormous amount of paperwork, juggling appointments, and stressful battles for respite, support, diagnosis, and educational needs, often with no help, and at their own expense. Some work, but many find they must give up any attempt at working to care for their loved ones. It is exhausting. Sadly, they can find themselves misunderstood, and struggling to keep on top of even the most basic of tasks due to exhaustion. Church attendance, if they want to go to church, can be impossible.

"We would like to think that the group is beginning to make quite a difference and that those who come look forward to getting together with others and sharing a little of their story. I see barriers beginning to break down, and people learning from each other, and realising there is strength in our numbers as we lean on each other for support. The group provides a listening ear that is much needed within society today."



Pizza at Staincross

A chance meeting with a local teacher, an accident in Aldi and some community funding, Staincross Methodist Church is now feeding more than 50 children pizza in the school holidays.

Deacon Alison McCauley explains: "On Thursdays, Staincross Methodist Church is a venue for Barnsley foodbank, which operates from 13 hubs across the town. Clients can pre order food parcels and collect them at a site local to them. The church also offers a warm welcome, a brew, toast and a listening ear if needed.

"It was during one session, we realised a teacher from a local school had filled her car with food parcels to deliver to parents in need. As we talked about it later, we realised these same children needed extra support in the school holidays which were rapidly approaching.

"A quick meeting with the local Community Development Officers and with the circuit staff, soon revealed a source of funds for a lunchtime project. We applied to the Ward Alliance Fund who awarded us £500 and the circuit promised the same amount from the mission fund if we needed it.

"God was definitely in the situation. Later the same week I fell and had an accident in Aldi car park. The Area Manager rang me and as we chatted I told him about our dream of feeding the local children. He generously donated 110 pizzas, to be collected when we needed them over the six weeks we planned to run the sessions.

"Our volunteers were amazing! They cooked up masses of pizzas. The first week we had 9 children attend; the second week we had 50! Word got round and families were fed, kids were entertained designing their own

pizza toppings and kept busy with activities as the pizzas cooked. We had no idea what we were letting ourselves in for, but it was a joy to see so many children eat (and their parents too when we had extra to share.) Thanks to the wonderful volunteers who worked so hard to make it happen and Darton Ward Alliance for funding."





Healing on the Streets @ Bakewell

Jonathan Brook (Pioneer Minister, The Hub at Hope)

Healing on the streets has been on my radar since I was a curate in Ripley many years ago, but like many of us we hear and are interested in these ideas but it sometimes takes many years before the next step actually happens. As we are reminded in 2 Peter “that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day”. The journey from meeting to decide that we wanted to try healing on the streets has been both exciting and daunting.

My theology over the years has been woven together with my deep desire for us to be a missional church. So, please as you read this be aware it's OK to disagree and hold aspects of my story in tension with your own theology, our God is big enough! A few of us gathered in a back room in Bakewell chapel over a year ago to start thinking whether this whole idea was possible here in the Peak District. A friend Nick and his wife Katherine shared how they had been out healing on the streets in South London, so it was decided "let's go for it". I floated the idea of a Sunday morning so that we were taking Jesus out of our churches and on to his streets. I held my breath to hear the reaction, but everyone was in support!

It didn't seem long before we were gathering for training using the Causeway Coast Vineyard Healing on the Streets Training Manual and accompanying videos. I find training sparks lots of thoughts and theological reflection on bits I agree with and some parts I struggle with. A personal battle that I carry with me is that I have a disability from birth that I have prayed for year after year, I've been to healing services and even been to the front for healing prayer on a number of occasions. If God hasn't healed me, how can I

pray for others? Another tension in my life to wrestle with and one that the team listened to with patience. The joining together in mission is always an amazing opportunity to grow in your own faith with others as you journey together.

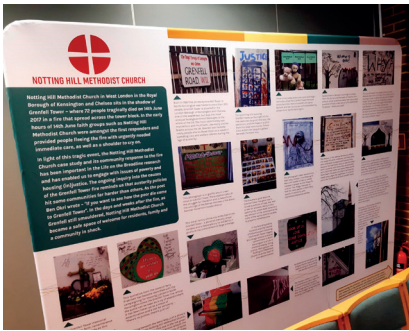
It's been very interesting having done the training as it opens many doors for both reflection, theological thought on how we pray and also praxis (the doing). I have found doors open to pray for healing and realising that in reality they were always there. However, I hadn't pushed them open as much as I could have and with the confidence I now have. Starting the healing on the streets in the winter, feels like we have chosen the narrow path rather than the wide one. The wind, the chill and the rain, but we have been there and had amazing opportunities to talk, pray and bless people.



“Every time we are there, prayer of healing happens and God's mystery is revealed that little bit more.”

How people react is interesting. I wonder if we were in another country would the reaction to healing be the same or different? We give out many flyers not knowing how or if they will be read. Some look with suspicion, others love to chat and others come with tears of hope as we sit and pray. Every time we are there, prayer of healing happens and God's mystery is revealed that little bit more. Whilst back in our churches people are praying! We are one church with different gifts, not opposing gifts but different. Our journey feels like it's only just begun and we all continue in eager anticipation at what next month will bring as we step out in faith.

Matthew 10 – “Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have skin diseases, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.”



Life on the Breadline Exhibition

Churches in Sheffield and Barnsley hosted the Life on the Breadline photographic exhibition during Lent. The aim was to start conversations, to hear and amplify voices of people with lived experiences of poverty, to create space for people to tell their own stories and to reflect on how we should personally and collectively respond to what we are hearing.

The exhibition was created by the Centre of Trust, Peace and Social Relations at Coventry University and the collaboration with churches in the Sheffield District reflects our conviction that the Church is called to 'transform structural injustice'.

The exhibition lasted six weeks in total, at Highfield Trinity Methodist Church, Church of Christ in Darnall, Sheffield and finally at Staincross Methodist Church, Barnsley.

Sue Griffiths, a Steward at Church of Christ said: "The Life on the Breadline Exhibition came to Church of Christ in Darnall in a flurry of excitement. Short notice, yes, swift decisions, swift actions, prayers and distinct nudges and guidance from God. For us as a church, working together to serve our community, Life on the Breadline opened up new possibilities. Opening the church building for reflection and exploration, extending and bringing together our existing church activities and members, linking with the wider community. We were part of something bigger spanning the UK and the Sheffield Methodist District.

Here are some questions which faced us:

- Sitting round the coffee table in conversation with visitors from other churches. Can we make more time for that?
- Offering a listening ear to someone experiencing grave hardship. Can we make more time?
- Can we open up this space in new ways to respond to need?

Many possibilities and rethinking will continue in our Mission and Vision."

Nick Waterfield, Pioneer Minister, Sheffield said: "Many of our Methodist congregations are responding practically to UK poverty through hosting food banks and partnerships with other charities, and many who worship in our churches have direct personal experience of poverty. But as a justice seeking church we firmly believe we must look beyond ourselves and work in partnership with people of all faiths and none who seek to end poverty in the UK and in our region.

"Our friends from other faith communities and other sectors are working in unity with us to tackle these issues and to really give people a voice and to promote change. We must stand together and give people a fair chance in life."

As part of the exhibition visitors were invited to share their thoughts and reflections on postcards, here are some examples of what was said:

Clifton Methodist Café Caring for the Community



A community café at Clifton Methodist Church in Rotherham has been serving the local community for around 14 years and has grown and adapted to the needs of the people who visit, be they local or just passing through.

Thanks to volunteers, both from within the church but also the local community, this much needed café is able to offer affordable meals, a warm welcome and a friendly ear when needed.

Revd. Louise Makin explains what Cornerstone is all about.

"Cornerstone Community Café began at Clifton Methodist Church, Rotherham in 2010 and is open on a Monday from 11.30-1.15. We initially offered a full three course lunch however after listening to customers we changed to serving snacks, toasties, homemade soups and puddings and the best jacket potatoes, alongside occasional specials.

"Tesco provides food nearing its end date for free and then supplemented with other staple items and the amazing kitchen team are

adept at creating meals from whatever they are given. Costs are kept as low as possible to give very good value for money to serve a community which suffers from economic deprivation. This year we have "Ask for Rosemary" to allow anyone who cannot afford to pay to be given soup or pudding and a hot drink without money.

"Our teams of volunteers are led by two church members - Jennifer Lovell and Pat Raison - who work either in the kitchen or front of house. Some are church members but many are from the local area, giving an opportunity for building relationships as they set up and work together. At 11am the whole team stop for coffee and prayer before opening up and welcoming everyone in. There is always the opportunity for new volunteers to be part of the team and training is provided in food hygiene, safeguarding etc.

"People using the café come from all walks of life and all ages. At half term there were a lot of children, there are a group of ladies who meet for lunch, to support one another through

Green and Pleasant

By Nick Waterfield

"I am on the breadline and it gave me comfort that some people care."

"Pain and suffering is now enough! We must move to action, campaigning and protesting."

"It's a good exhibition showing the different types of poverty. In this 21st century, it's sad so many people are suffering."

Life on the Breadline was a three-year (2018-2021) research project based at the Centre for Trust, Peace and Social Relations at Coventry University, funded by the Economic and Social Research Council. Led by Dr Chris Shannahan, Dr Stephanie Denning, Robert Beckford and Peter Scott, the project analysed the nature, scope, and impact of Christian engagement with urban poverty in the UK since the 2008 financial crisis. It is the first academic theological analysis of Christian responses to UK poverty in the age of austerity that draws on detailed in-depth fieldwork across the UK in the form of interviews with national Church leaders, an online survey with regional Church leaders, and six case studies.

<https://breadlineresearch.coventry.ac.uk/>

Visit sheffieldmethodist.org to find out more about the exhibition and thoughts and reflections from people in the Sheffield District.

bereavement. Some come from other churches in the area and as a result of social prescribing, and some just walk in off the street as they are passing on their way to the local Clifton park.

"A student Deacon Vivian Chicaviro working in the café as part of her link church agreement, provides a thought for the day, a Bible verse and conversation starter to go in the menu holder, and a signposting area provides leaflets and information both faith-based and secular and there is always someone available for a chat.

"Any surplus food is available to give away and an informal second-hand stall recirculates, books, jigsaws, games and bric-a-brac. It is also an outlet for community members to sell handcrafted items.

"The café has experienced both ups and downs. Last autumn after a drop in numbers, members were seriously considering whether to continue but, after meeting for prayer and to ask God for direction, the resulting upsurge of people coming and volunteers to help out has given the café new heart."

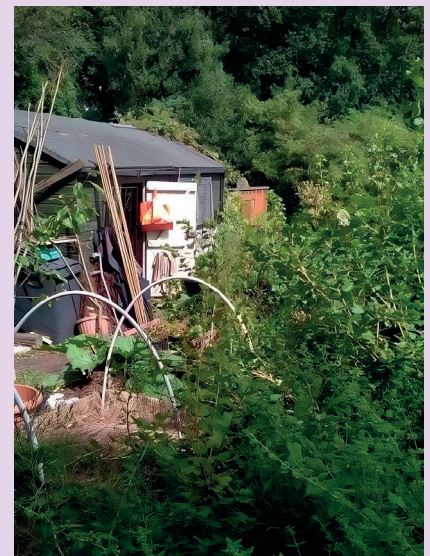
As many of you might already know, and for those who don't, I work in a Pioneer Ministry that operates in and around Parson Cross in the North of Sheffield. The day to day focus of that work is based on community development mixed with a community chaplaincy ministry. For much of the time I work closely with the charity that we, as the Methodist Church, helped establish in 2017 namely PXI- Parson Cross Initiative Projects.

PXI's charitable focus is on social inclusion and for much of our time we work with many vulnerable and isolated members of the local community, most of that work is based in Mount Tabor on Wordsworth Avenue, but our other main site is the community allotment on the Norwood Allotments site, near the Northern General Hospital.

The community allotment comprises four separate plots, and includes growing and social spaces, as well as our very own orchard. The regular sessions there are all hosted by PXI and again involve people from within the local community, some of these people have their own plots as well, others just come to socialise, some have been coming for a number of years and others only for a short time. We also get people from the local community mental health team and even occupational therapy team at the hospital.

Every year we manage to grow food that gets taken home by those who come, or used in the community food hub at Tabor, or on some occasions even cooked on the allotments as part of our seasonal celebration events. As much as it is a growing space for fruit and vegetables, it is also a growing space for people. People learn new skills, gain in confidence but often also find themselves to be in a "special" space which they will openly talk about life. It helps people to feel more aware of the environment around them, and often they begin to notice things around them like the birdsong, wild flowers, and even just small seasonal changes, things that often go unheard and unseen in a busy urban environment.

On special occasions I have more formally worn my Pioneer Minister hat, and we've held a celebration and even communion on the plots as part of those special seasonal times such as; Easter, Summer and Winter Equinox, and Christmas, but much of the time we just embrace the space around us and enjoy it together. Although we don't always talk blatantly about the Gospel, we do talk much about life, about nature, and about how life sometimes feels out of balance and how we pile worry on top of worry when sometimes what we really need to do is just sit and breathe. In all honesty the allotment can help you do that, even if you've been working flat out there inevitably and rightly comes a time to just sit back, relax, and rejoice in what has been done.





“But what we are learning is that there is a need to take risks, try new things, be courageous with sharing your faith and most importantly listen to your community..”

What do we breathe in so that we can breathe out?

Jonathan Hood, Community Pioneer

I love springtime. Watching nature be reborn and being outside. However, it does remind me that I am useless at gardening, in fact my children are better at it than me! My best effort is teaching them that creation needs to take in water, food and sunlight. This brought me back to the thought that as we serve God, we too need to take in our spiritual food to grow and flourish.

As we read scripture, we see God's people filled and empowered by the Holy Spirit and we see Jesus disappearing away from crowds to spend time with God. This should encourage us to seek out what we need to receive so we can serve, or as my good friend Revd. Sean Adair puts it, what do we breathe in so that we can breathe out?

I have found great blessing in attending the recent Whole Hearted conference, as well as sitting under the ministry of Martyn Atkins at the most recent New Christian Communities District Gathering. My real sustenance comes from my daily relationship with Jesus. It is the time with him in prayer, worship and the Bible, and the reliance on the Holy Spirit at work in my life, that equips me to serve and hopefully flourish, as we seek to build new Christian communities.

Over the last few months, we have seen God at work in our two communities and have seen new people exploring the Christian faith.

During February, we held our latest family church in the bungalow in Barrow Hill. We had eight families (33 people) packed into our

small space for food, prayer and activities/discussion around what Lent is all about. We also had some great conversations about faith, God and why some people struggle to believe.

Our kids club in the community has also grown with around 15 different families coming through the door. The bungalow is full every week with families joining us for games, craft and discussion, as well as getting to know us as we serve the community.

People who join us for these groups have said: "I don't think I believe, but I want my children to learn about God and good values.", "I grew up a Jehovah's Witness so I am curious about what you believe.", "Can we have more activities, the community really enjoys what you do.", "Do you have this church every week?"

Our toddler group in Grangewood is also flourishing, with new volunteers and families joining us in our small, cosy Hub. We have been more intentional with sharing our faith recently including prayer, song and discussion with the adults where appropriate. One lady commented that, "You do church stuff but you don't ram it down our throats."

We continue to be present in our communities, working in schools and alongside other community groups like Gussies Kitchen where I help serve food to around 50 families weekly. This helps us to listen, love and build relationships with people we would like to connect with. Out of this work, we are hoping for new opportunities to form new Christian communities and we currently have one or



two ideas starting to form. One of the schools I work with has recently indicated an interest in having a service at Church and looking at how we can develop more faith activities.

It is important to say that some of our work has not been as fruitful. We have tried running a warm space which has not managed to engage our community. We are also in the early stages of running a community café in Barrow Hill which hasn't had much response yet. Prayers are needed for our kid's club at Derby Road to grow beyond the handful of children we currently work with.

But what we are learning is that there is a need to take risks, try new things, be courageous with sharing your faith and most importantly listen to your community to what needs and interests they have. We have also learned that structure for people in these places is not familiar so there is a need to be flexible and responsive to the moment.

I want to encourage you this springtime to find your spiritual food, a deeper relationship with God, the power of the Holy Spirit, so that you can serve God and your local community. I want to encourage you to think about how you can listen to God and your community. What new initiatives can you try in order to share the love and good news of Jesus? I pray that as you think about or begin developing new faith work in your community, that you will see shoots of hope and new life like creation around us.

Building Community through Volunteering

The Trinity Circuit has created a new Volunteer Coordinator role thanks to grant funding from Bassetlaw Community Grants.

The Volunteer Coordinator will support the circuit staff team to look at new ways of building community, overcoming isolation and supporting and growing a volunteer team.

The Crossing and The Grove Churches in the Trinity Circuit already provide much needed groups to help people to socialise and create a sense of belonging. They work in partnership with other organisations including a Bassetlaw Food Bank and Rhubarb Farm to challenge food poverty and facilitate nutritional wellbeing. A community coffee morning is run with North Notts College Flex Team and MIND use the churches for their support networks. In addition, the premises host the Just Good Friends – Valley Social Club for adults with learning difficulties. The circuit would like to be able to offer more.

The church leadership teams carried out a volunteer audit to find out what the local community needed, identify gaps in provision and also what people would like to achieve through volunteering. This is how the Volunteer Coordinator role was created.

Meet Joe

Hi, my name is Joe Hicks and I'm the new Volunteer Coordinator at The Grove and The Crossing. I'm 35 years old and a single father of three. I have experience in team management, volunteering and business administration and I'm really keen to work with the existing volunteers and recruit some new people to the team. I am



so excited to be able to contribute to the community and hope to see it thriving

Volunteering Opportunities

Superintendent Revd. Julie Coates said: "In the Trinity Circuit we identified there was a real need to create the new Volunteer Coordinator role in order to make sure our volunteers can be well supported, that they can learn and benefit from their experiences and expand their skills, but to also make sure we have enough volunteers to make a positive impact on the local community.

"The volunteering opportunities can be tailored around what people can offer, eg do they want to give back to society by using their spare evenings to work on something that can be home based like preparing newsletters and keeping the local community informed of events, or do they want to build up their self-confidence by serving on the welcome desk at The Crossing. If they are looking to learn new skills they could help with catering or office work alongside some of the existing volunteers or administrative staff and bespoke training opportunities will also be offered."

Celebrating Volunteers

At 4pm on Sunday 9th June, The Grove Methodist Church in Retford will host a celebration service for all those who work with children, families or young people – paid or voluntary - in the district.

Everyone is invited to attend and most importantly the district would like to say "THANK YOU" to all the volunteers who give their time to support the work of the Methodist Church. Without volunteers we couldn't serve communities the way we do.



"We identified there was a real need to create the new Volunteer Coordinator role in order to make sure our volunteers can be well supported..."



How to... Take care of your mental health by following in God's footsteps

Led by Tim Jansen – Mental Health Coordinator, Sheffield Circuit



Some of the most common questions I get asked are around mental health and Christianity. This is not always straightforward as both subjects are really big and everyone's knowledge of both mental health and Christianity can be vastly different. This is why I prefer to start with a simple but crucial theme and that is the theme of resting.

From the outset in Genesis, we can read about how God decides to take a whole day of resting on the seventh day and more than this He blesses it and then proceeds to make it Holy. We also see that the period of resting is the same as the period for creating the stars, moon and the sun together! We can say then that resting is a crucial theme from the very start of the Christian history and a behaviour that God himself models for the entire human race.

In mental health care we often talk about resting and giving an agitated or ill mind time to settle. In many ways resting is the opposite of stress and anxiety. Once we learn more about mental health, we realise that resting and making time to dispose of our accumulated stress is the most basic but also the most important thing we

can do next to taking medication and attending therapy if needed.

Resting then is both crucial to our mental health as well as a very important but often completely overlooked part of our Christian identity. Luckily there are traces to be found even today in Christianity particularly in monastic settings where active resting in silence and contemplation remains a crucial part of the monastic vocation.

Both psychology and theology agree that actively taking time to rest is one of the most fundamental and impactful things we can do to take care of who we are and sustain our connection with God. There are many ways to take rest, such as walking in nature, praying, reading the Bible or my personal favorite remaining in silence.

I think that many of us are not used to thinking of God and mental health as having much in common but the more I look at the Bible through the eyes of mental health and vice versa the more I realise that it is only logical that they are intertwined. After all the God who loves us is surely concerned with our health and happiness both spiritual as well as mental.

How To... Create a Scripture Selfcare Wheel

Led by Revd. Nel Shallow



The second greatest commandment Jesus gives in Matthew's Gospel is the command to love our neighbour as we love ourselves; with both of these human loves flowing from our first love: to love the Lord with all our heart, soul, and mind. These succinct words from Jesus sum up our mandate to love God and all humans. However, the reality of living these words, of embodying these words as disciples, is profoundly challenging; a lifelong calling.

Self-care, as a spiritual practice, is not a selfish indulgence. Self-care as a spiritual practice can enable us to love others more deeply. Intentional self-care, as an expression of discipleship, creates holy space for us to love God and to deepen our love for ourselves, and therefore to love others more fully.

There are many clichés around caring for others when we ourselves are depleted. 'You cannot pour from an empty cup' is one such phrase. Yet so many of us are

serving from a place of tiredness, and of being stretched thin. We may even be feeling exhausted and spiritually depleted. The work and ministry may well be continuing, and hopefully others are feeling loved and valued, but how are we as Christians fulfilling the command to love ourselves? Remembering that this is one half, fifty percent, of the second greatest commandment given to us by Jesus.

Within this workshop we will be reflecting on 'love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind' by creating a simple reflective diagram of a Self Care Wheel whilst wondering how we can love our neighbour as we love ourselves. This workshop is for anyone who is reflective, is comfortable with creativity, and is open to gentle mindfulness. It may be particularly helpful to anyone who is exhausted and is looking to find a gentler rhythm of grace, and for those who are seeking a deeper self-awareness.

How To... Embrace change - a survival guide for circuits and churches

Led by Revd. Romeo Pedro and Neil Harland, District Mission Enabler



Change is a normal, and often welcome, part of life. We are grateful for advances in medical technology, ability to communicate instantaneously with people living far away, and a host of labour-saving devices.

One of the creative tensions at the heart of Methodism is being a “connexion” of non-conformists. Methodist “societies” and chapels were founded by people who realised that they did not need a priest or institution to speak with God on their behalf: God’s wisdom could be revealed through anyone, irrespective of formal role or job title. We equally strongly hold that we best learn and act out our discipleship together. We make difficult decisions by conferring and finding paths that we can collectively walk.

As connexional non-conformists how can we embrace the normality of change as it applies to the way we do church? Especially when we feel that we are starting from a place not of our choosing, grieving for lost societal influence, or reliant on church as a stable reference point

in stressed lives.

Working in contexts far beyond the religious, academic Otto Scharmer preaches the need to begin by choosing together to pause and reflect (“co-initiating”), to listen open-heartedly to voices beyond your own (“co-sensing”). This leads us to a threshold where we must choose to let go of all that holds us back in order that we might step into what we could become.

Psychologist Jonathan Haidt writes about living the change we desire only being possible if we pursue it with all our emotional heart (characterised as an elephant) and our rational mind (described as the elephant rider). To this, Chip & Dan Heath add the need to create straight paths across difficult terrain.

Does any of this imagery sound familiar? Where is God saying to your congregation of connexional non-conformists “Look, I am doing a new thing”? How will you together choose to join in?

How to... Respond to Community Trauma - The Grenfell Tower fire

Led by Revd. Mike Long



When terrible events occur many people gravitate to places of sacred significance where they can either find support, or find a means to express their shock or anguish. Trauma is an amplifying factor, reopening old wounds, exacerbating tensions and conflicts – and this was evident in the aftermath of the Grenfell Tower fire. In this workshop we’ll be looking at the response of the faith community in both the short and the medium term, and particularly by the local Methodist Church, and lessons that can be gained from that experience.

The Church is often well placed to respond to disasters, for several reasons. Churches often have a physical presence at the heart of communities and can sometimes act as focal points for community lament, through vigils, opportunities for prayer, special services and interactive expression such as condolence books, graffiti boards, and craft activities. In such circumstances the church may act as a vehicle for both individual grief and collective feeling.

Churches often possess buildings that can be made

available for emergency needs - sometimes large ones, with flexible space, heating, toilets, kitchens etc.

Churches are also a rich community asset in terms of their role in sustaining local relationships and community resilience. They also understand local communities and issues such as how trusted particular agencies are, cultural sensitivities etc. Its members (or staff) usually hold valuable local information often not known to emergency responders, for instance. (After the Grenfell Tower fire, the Methodist church supplied police, often drafted in from outside the area, with maps indicating key venues.)

Churches may also have a track record within the local community of advocacy, or support, or response to need. There may be long-standing, trusting relationships which provide reassurance in times of chaotic change, and may help the church to enable the community to become organised, or find its voice, to seek truth and justice, and encourage the slow process of adjustment and healing.

With God's help I will...care for myself whilst supporting victims and survivors of abuse

Alison Hill, District Safeguarding Officer

There is no normal or one way to react when you find out someone you know is a victim or survivor of abuse. You might experience anger; anxiety; confusion; disbelief; guilt or sadness. Regardless of what you're feeling, learning how to manage these feelings can help you support the survivor in your life and can help you feel less overwhelmed.

How do I practice self-care?

- **Maintain your lifestyle.** It can be difficult to stay emotionally strong if you are mostly focusing on the abuse. Maintaining your lifestyle and continuing to do what you enjoy is important for your emotional wellness.
- **Make plans.** Sometimes talking about what happened can help you cope with your feelings, and other times it can make you feel more stuck. Make plans that give you a break from talking or thinking about the abuse.
- **Reach out and talk about it.** It's normal

to have a difficult time processing the abuse of others. It can continue to be difficult as time goes on and the survivor begins the healing process. You can also consider talking to someone who is trained professionally to help you deal with these thoughts and feelings, like a mental health professional.

- **Take time to relax.** Relaxation looks different for everyone. You might consider meditation or deep breathing exercises. Maybe journaling helps you sort through your thoughts and find peace. Build time into your day for these moments of relaxation so that you don't skip out.

Supporting victims and survivors of abuse toolkits.

These are the two methods of dealing with any situation. You can be proactive and get ahead of whatever your day may have in store. Or you can be reactive and watch your day develop before choosing a particular course

of action. The fact of the matter is, there is no right or wrong way in tackling a situation. With that said, there are some key benefits you will experience if you choose to be proactive as opposed to reactive. Being proactive allows you to dictate your particular position and supplies a sense of control over whatever situation you may be facing.

The Methodist Church has produced a range of resources that can help churches and circuits support victims and survivors of abuse. I am pleased to announce that as a District we have collated these resources into toolkits for Presbyters, Deacons, and Lay Pastors. Our hope is that if we make it easier for people to be proactive in their approach to victims and survivors of abuse.

The packs will be distributed at the Spring District Gathering and further resources will be sent directly to people as they are developed.

If you have any questions or concerns, please give me a call on **07483 362 735** or email me at safeguarding@sheffieldmethodist.org.



Learning to Care

The Learning Network aims to support, encourage and inspire Methodist people in all aspects of Our Calling as together we seek to be an inclusive, justice seeking and evangelistic church.

Rachel McCallam, Learning Development Manager, looks at how learning and caring are grouped together under 'Our Calling'.

She said: "I have often wondered why learning and caring are grouped together when looking at the Our Calling headings, but I have come to realise over the years that learning to care needs to be at the heart of any Christian curriculum. In Brian's McLaren's book Faith after Doubt, he asks what our churches would look like if they became schools of Love, where the syllabus is based on exploring how we can best love God, love our neighbours, love ourselves and love our planet and all creation. Would we notice the difference? Would our churches be transformed?"

"As I think about the work we do in the Learning Network, I am struck by how much of what we deliver has, at its heart, the

aim of learning to care well. Whether it be safeguarding training, EDI, the new pastoral care course 'Who Cares?' or line management training and support for lay employees. We are developing our understanding and skills in order to care better.

"It is not always easy though; care and compassion are costly. Glennon Doyle, an American best-selling author and founder and president of Together Rising, an all-women-led non-profit organisation supporting women, families, and children in crisis, says:

"I understand now that I'm not a mess but a deeply feeling person in a messy world. I explain that now, when someone asks me why I cry so often, 'For the same reason I laugh so often – because I'm paying attention.'"

"When we see people in pain, communities suffering, our world in crisis we are affected at a cellular level. However, looking away is not an option, Jesus tells us in the gospel it is the greatest commandment and therefore our challenge, as disciples, is to make it our life-long commitment, our highest calling."



"I understand now that I'm not a mess but a deeply feeling person in a messy world. I explain that now, when someone asks me why I cry so often, 'For the same reason I laugh so often - because I'm paying attention.'"

Young People Leading Church Mission

The District's first intake of ONE Opportunity Programme Interns have almost completed their year's projects and what a difference they are making. Three very different projects, but all supporting young people and families.

Meet Gen

"My ONE project is a new 'Missing Generation' Group in Barnsley. This is a youth group for ages 15-18 as I believe there is an age gap in our church of this age group. When I first started this group we only had one other member, however four months on we already have seven members. This group is a safe space with some fun and Bible study, the group is supposed to be a time to make new friends and we encourage everyone to stay for the contemporary service after our meeting."



Meet Coni

"For my project I am running a SEN session at Sam's Space Soft Play at Firth Park Methodist Church in Sheffield for children with SEN needs. This enables children to take part in play frame activities, sensory room for quiet time and they can also explore their different sensors in the party room. The SEN sessions give the children a unique opportunity to be involved in physical activity and promote positive growth in their health. These sessions can also help parents to be in an environment where no one will be judged and will be able to chat in a friendly environment."



Meet Faye

"As part of my ONE project I have been helping out at the Boys' Brigade, where I have been focusing on the younger and new members, making them feel safer and more welcome in the Boys' Brigade. We have slowly been adapting our activities to fit the needs of the children which has made it more fun and appealing to both the younger and older boys."



The ONE Opportunity Programme is designed to encourage and recognise the importance of young people in our Church's life and mission. The programme is for young people aged 16-23 years and gives them the opportunity to be involved on a part-time basis in the development of the mission and ministry of their church. It offers a salaried position of three hours per week, on a one-year project shaped around the gifts and passions of the young person.

The ONE Opportunity Programme has a focus on discipleship and relationship building. It aims to encourage the development of the interns, and to influence the wider church community who come alongside them.

Vic Loveday, District Children and Youth Coordinator said: "Since launching the ONE Opportunity Programme in the district I have seen our Interns grow in their faith and develop new skills. They are receiving lots of support and encouragement and it's great to see them putting in the hard work and gaining confidence from it. This has only been our first year, but I am so excited to see where this year's Interns go from here but also who our Interns will be in September and what projects they create."

Emmaus Weekend

Young people aged 14+ from around the Yorkshire districts met at Wydale Hall, Scarborough, in February to explore their faith and to ask where God might be calling them. The ONE Programme Interns, along with six young people and leaders from the Sheffield District attended the Emmaus Weekend. Vic added "This weekend is about being in community with other young people and developing our leadership skills, whilst having lots of fun, a time to breathe and great conversations. We were each asked at the beginning of the weekend where our heart/passion was in the world. We then explored our different ideas in small teams or individuals with the leader's support. By the end of the weekend we presented back our ideas and how we could deliver them and what support we would need, what steps we can make to see change in our world. We also explored the Methodist Way of Life and discussed where our home stations were and which station would we like to explore. On the Sunday we discussed what worship is for us and then split into different groups – the

message, prayers, music and Holy Communion - we each took a part to lead worship together.

"It's there to encourage and equip young people to find their voice and the weekend includes activities to help develop skills to be heard in the church and the world through prayer, worship and most importantly a lot of fun."

Apply

To find out more about the ONE Opportunity Programme or to apply for September 2024 visit sheffieldmethodist.org or contact Vic for a chat about what being an Intern could mean for you or for your church cy@sheffieldmethodist.org



"I have seen our Interns grow in their faith and develop new skills. They are receiving lots of support and encouragement and it's great to see them putting in the hard work and gaining confidence from it."





We need to talk

At *Who is Your Neighbour?*, we try to hold conversations that support societal well-being, particularly in places where people don't tend to get heard. We might understand self-care as a relational, community activity rather than a private concern (not that those are mutually exclusive!)

What does it mean to believe that we can only be 'well' when both I and my neighbour - who might seem different to me, or be differently resourced - are cared for and listened to?

Our answer is a reflection on how three 'Cs' - conversation, change and curiosity - feature in our work.

CONVERSATION

WiYN? Senior Facilitator Ian remembers the impact of starting up conversations with passers-by in central Rotherham, as the first COVID-19 lockdown lifted:

"There was a visible release of emotions. One woman, passing with her five children, had her first chance to talk about her experience. I could see it, like a valve, like steam coming out of her!"

Research indicates that "closeness, connection, and belonging is ... derived from multiple conversations or social interactions ... vital for ... well-being." It is not good for

humans to be denied conversation and connection. Senior Facilitator, Violet, thinks intentional, community conversations are needed because:

"People just don't have the space to talk about what's real, to them."

CHANGE

WiYN? facilitators often look out for moments of change in conversations. Dedication to self-care can require us to make personal changes; and to adapt to, or build up resilience in the face of, societal change.

Director, Tariq Bashir, remembers a conversation in a village near Doncaster, where emotions ran high:

"They wanted to talk about Muslims, the experience of going into town and 'people don't look the same any more, aren't speaking English, you feel like you're in a different country.'

"It was building up and building up."

Our facilitators assume people mean well and take them seriously, even when their words are difficult to hear. This empathy can create conditions for genuine change, as in this case, when suddenly:

"Somebody said, 'I don't actually know any Muslims'. Then somebody else said, 'I don't either'. And then the whole group. That was a moment of real change."

CURIOSITY

Facilitator Brad tells his story on the *WiYN?* Website. He thinks curiosity is essential when it comes to building trust and community well-being, particularly in places where people have experience of being ignored or shut-down:

"Everyone's willing to have a non-judgmental conversation, where there is genuine curiosity about their lives."

Without this, people become isolated and divided:

"A lot of the groups I work with in Barnsley, they haven't been heard."

For *WiYN?*, carefully-held conversations are an effective tool that helps communities get along - and 'well-being' in community requires us all to keep on learning how to get along.

***Who is Your Neighbour?* delivers conversations around South Yorkshire and supports others who want to do the same around the UK. It was established by an inter-faith group in 2009 / 2010 and was for many years an independent project supported within the structures of Sheffield Methodist District. It was registered as an independent charity in 2021.**



Who is Your Neighbour?

NEW BEGINNINGS

NEW BEGINNINGS is a new Sheffield Methodist District seed funding programme designed to support you as you experiment with new ways for new people to start their journey of Christian discipleship – a new beginning in their life.

Perhaps your congregation needs to discover new ways for new people to find faith and join your worshipping community. **NEW BEGINNINGS** might therefore also represent the start of a new chapter in the story of your church. Perhaps informal midweek worship, a faith sharing course, or an evangelistic event, is the next step that people attending your coffee morning, craft group or toddlers are waiting for.

Or maybe you need to start earlier in people's journeys – offering new community activities, first earning trust and creating a safe space, but with a clear plan about how and when you will introduce conversations about faith.

Or perhaps you recognise that – much as you appreciate it – your longstanding expression of church will not be right for some people that you care about. **NEW BEGINNINGS** can support you to create a new type of congregation for new people – moulded from your and their connections, gifts and passions.

NEW BEGINNINGS start best from careful listening: to your neighbourhood, fellow Christians and to God. Our website offers practical tips for consulting with your neighbourhood about wants, needs and interests.

NEW BEGINNINGS can feel intimidating and exposing, and often involve “learning on the job”. We are arranging specialist training and networking events so you can learn with and from others who are trying similar things.

NEW BEGINNINGS often start small – we want to support you to focus on what you have time to do well. So there is no requirement for you to provide match funding.

NEW BEGINNINGS can be led by anyone. Formal theological qualifications are valuable, but are not always necessary. Expect your minister to be supportive, but don't be surprised or disappointed if they trust you to get on with it.

Grants of up to £750 can be accessed through a simple application form available on the district website. Here you will find stories of other **NEW BEGINNINGS** from around the district, tips for neighbourhood consultations and details of training and networking opportunities.



“Perhaps your congregation needs to discover new ways for new people to find faith and join your worshipping community... Perhaps informal midweek worship, a faith sharing course, or an evangelistic event, is the next step that people attending your coffee morning, craft group or toddlers are waiting for.”



For such a time as this

GROWING DISCIPLES

- Funded ONE programme internships - nurturing young leaders
- Bespoke learning opportunities for youth and children's volunteers
- Becoming a discipleship-first church/developing pathways to closer discipleship
- Practical steps to reduce barriers and exclusion (beyond compulsory training)

PASSIONATE CONTEXTUAL WORSHIP

- Next steps towards excellence in digital & hybrid worship

SHARING STORIES

- Year of testimony – recognising God active in your community
- Engaging and responsive online presence in your digital neighbourhood
- Creating smooth paths for new disciples

TRANSFORMING MISSION

- Starting new Christian communities for new people, including online communities
- Beyond words on a page – implementing your mission plan

PROPERTIES FIT FOR MISSION

- Becoming an Eco Church
- Energy efficiency audits and advice

We believe that the God who made you who are, has called you by name, and will equip you with as much as you need to live out your vocation. God does not need someone better than you. There is no need to wait for a more opportune time. God has prepared you and directed your time to be God's agent right here and now: for such a time as this

Your District Staff



Chair of District
Revd. Gill Newton



Deputy Chair of District
Revd. Julie Coates



Administration
Katrin Hackett



**Children, Youth,
Families & Schools**
Vic Loveday



Communications
Sam Roberts



Human Resources
Andrew Crawford



Mission
Neil Harland



Property
Tom Rattigan



Safeguarding
Alison Hill



Thank You

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to our district gathering, shared stories in this magazine and taken part in the How To sessions. We hope you found it an inspirational day and this magazine a motivating read.

Our Keynote speaker and How To session leaders:

Revd. Nel Shallow, Tim Jansen, Revd. Mike Long, Revd. Romeo Pedro, Neil Harland.

Organisations:

Good Taste

Freedom

MHA

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Urban Theology Union

Cliff College

Tropic

Christian Poster Company

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INTRODUCING OUR PODCAST

FAITH, HOPE AND THE JOURNEY

Faith, Hope and The Journey is a collection of stories from North Nottinghamshire, South Yorkshire and North East Derbyshire as people from the Sheffield Methodist District share their faith journey and talk about how they are using their gifts and talents to do God's work.

Scan the QR code to listen on Soundcloud. Also available on Spotify, Amazon Music, Apple Podcasts, or directly on the district website.



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