

PEAK WESLEY WAY GRANT APPLICATION to SHEFFIELD DISTRICT

THE PEAK WESLEY WAY: MISSION IN THE PEAK CIRCUIT

Following the earlier exploration and earlier proposal (attachment 1) to develop a Wesley Way pilgrimage, the Peak Circuit are now seeking funding to enable this mission to progress.

The Narrative

The Project is to develop THE PEAK WESLEY WAY a long distance route that provides an opportunity for people to engage with the ancient spiritual practice of pilgrimage within the Peak Park. Each chapel will offer basic overnight accommodation (camp beds and pillows plus basic kitchen facilities, toilet and a shower) and resources for spiritual engagement should the pilgrim wish.

The pilgrimage will build a community of Christian seekers and disciples, local and transient, who will connect with a living God and grow in faith and discipleship.

The Route is proposed to run from Matlock to Edale (attachment 2) Whilst we begin with a focus on 5 chapels in the circuit, there is potential to expand and include other chapels.

The project is headed by the Circuit Leadership Team and supported by Peak Park Rural Development Enabler and the District Mission Enabler. We will consult with the District Safeguarding Officer and District Missional Property Enabler.

The opportunities THE PEAK WESLEY WAY will provide are :-

1. Discipleship and Mission

- **Seekers** will be able to find information and 'food for thought' along the way. Chapels will actively display materials that invite pilgrims into a relationship with Jesus and a living God.
- **Personal Discipleship.** Pilgrims who have already begun to develop a faith and build a relationship with the living God will have opportunity to grow that relationship through contemplation, reflection and journeying.
- **Sharing a Story** of faith development, social and local history can increase knowledge as well encourage connections with heritage and gain personal inspiration from those who have pilgrimed before us. It can also create opportunity to re-connect with people in the village and be more likely to sustain a chapel in the village.

- **A reconnection with creation.** A physical presence in the great outdoors encourages pilgrims to be part of the natural world – whatever the weather! Reflecting on the need for different weathers, the changing climate, plant life, animal life and geology can bring a greater understanding of the creator in all things, the unity of all living things and the preciousness of the fragile world.

Within the circuit we have begun conversations around church involvement and environmental issues, Hathersage church has recently become a bronze eco church. As a walking route it is our intention to encourage pilgrims to access the Peak Park via public transport, hence starting and ending the route where this is available.

- **Personal connections, quiet days, reflective days and discipleship days** have the potential to connect locals and pilgrims. Where possible local people will welcome the pilgrims, there is potential to pray together and offer a pilgrim blessing. When specific day events are held in the pilgrim chapels there is opportunity to grow the faith of disciples both resident and those traveling through, should they wish to join in.

2. Sustainability

- **Financial Income** Pilgrims will pay to stay per person, per night in the chapels which creates an income (details referred to later in this paper) to keep the chapels in good state of repair and provide funding for further opportunities for mission. After the initial investment for building alterations and management it is envisaged the project will be self-funding, therefore we are requesting funding for capital costs at this stage and may later request funding for salary costs during the start up period.
- **Employment, Service and Community building** It is envisaged that the income will provide opportunity for employment of a pilgrimage manager to enable the implementation and future growth of THE PEAK WESLEY WAY

Cleaning will be either voluntary or paid depending on local circumstances.

We are engaging with local people about the needs of the community during the hours the buildings are not used for pilgrims.

There is opportunity to engage with local skills and talent to create pilgrim resources. The provision of resources may require creative writing, photography artwork etc, so may engage those who are not currently on a faith journey and offers potential for faith discovery.

In undertaking the social history research and understanding what local facilities are currently available we will create new links between village, church and visitors.

Pilgrims will increase footfall to local village facilities, such as the shop, café, pub, post office etc as available.

Pilgrims can be invited to join an online community or receive occasional email reflections to maintain connection with us and others who have participated in the same pilgrimage.

- **Leadership**

The Circuit Leadership Team, who are developing this pioneering project have been attending a transformational leadership course, already developing a new energy for leadership in the circuit.

The leadership team are communicating with the whole circuit via specific updates (attachment 3). As others hear of the project and begin to join in there is potential to grow new leaders.

- **Passionate contextual worship**

As the project gains pace within the circuit there are increasing opportunities for contextual worship; a worship to connect local disciples with their own pilgrimage of faith. It is exciting to consider how reaching out to others encourages our own faith growth. Even more exciting to think we are already in the process of changing lives as we continue to connect with Gods mission.

3. Sharing the story, skills and expertise across the Connexion

As knowledge and expertise are developed there will be increased opportunity for this to be shared though the connexional links and networks. Many of these networks are already represented on the development group i.e., the Peak Park Rural Development Enabler's (PPRDE) work, District Mission Enablers Networks, Positively Rural webinars, Pioneer Mission network and the Evangelism and Growth Rural Network. There is added opportunity for sharing through social media and circuit/district and connexional websites.

- **Risks**

Some potential risks and their management have been identified in the table below.

RISKS

Risk	Possible mitigation
Someone else does it better Another organisation provides a similar service that is better advertised, has better facilities, or is cheaper	Within the Peak Park this is only likely to be from within Church of England. If someone else is interested in doing the same as us we could work in partnership with them.

	Need to keep our routes separate from Peak Pilgrimage to avoid undermining Eyam Church.
Catastrophic chapel repair costs Major repairs could at some point be required for a chapel (roof replacement, subsidence etc) which are not justified by level of activities. This could leave a gap in our pilgrimage route.	If an actively used community building then grant funding may be available for capital work. Important to have several chapels involved, so as to have alternative venues.
But it's our chapel Being available for pilgrimages will place restrictions on when local activities can be held in chapels (especially evenings), and will place restrictions on how rooms can be laid out etc. Professional management to consistent standard would require some local office holders to let go of some control.	We would need to be clear with chapel members what they are signing up for, but also challenge what other alternatives could create better impact.
Not enough pilgrims Whilst trail walking, pilgrimages, and Peak Park camping in churches are all established and popular, ours may not catch popular imagination.	Start small with a few chapels, strike a careful balance between doing well and controlling costs
Distraction from the real priority Running the pilgrimage business could take up so much time and effort that that we do not engage in our own discipleship or missional outreach to local communities.	Importance of using staff well, and delegating authority, so as to reduce the time we spend tending our buildings. If financially viable, pilgrimage should generate ongoing funding for local mission and reason for engagement with local communities
Lack of people to oversee Volunteers will be needed to supervise the manager, take key decisions, and set strategic direction. This needs a core of people from within the circuit with an appropriate balance of professional skills and experience.	Whatever missional priorities the circuit chooses to prioritise will require a team. Working towards a bold outward-looking vision can attract people with relevant expertise, as has been seen in Edale, Hub at Hope etc.

The Funding and Figures

- **Why are we asking for funding?**

We are committed to seeing this project through, we believe it is a unique opportunity for the whole circuit to engage in mission. It provides opportunity for individual and group mission, for mission to locals and visitors and also provides funding for continued mission in the future. Pilgrimage across the nation is seeing a renewed interest, the timing is appropriate.

However, we will need to have THE PEAK WESLEY WAY up and running in order to gain a financial return. Our aim is to begin by next spring in order to catch the main walking and hiking season.

Alterations are required on the chapel buildings to offer a standardised level of facilities across all overnight venues.

We wish to offer -

Inside toilet, shower, basic kitchen facilities and heating, decoration in good state of repair along with security and fire safety. Details are recorded in the spreadsheet (attachment 4) along with details of other project development costs and other funders we will be approaching.

- **Request**

At this stage we are requesting £14,000 towards capital and setup costs as mentioned above.

Appendices

1. The Route
2. Circuit Newsletter 1 and **3.A** Circuit Newsletter 2
3. Project Financial Spreadsheet
4. Current financial position

Appendix 1 – Route



Proposed Route under Phase 1

Railway access from Matlock

Youlgrave

Great Longstone

Baslow

Hathersage

Castleton

Visit Edale but not sleep here

Railway access from Edale

It is expected that other phases will follow that can incorporate more chapels.

Appendix 2 – circuit newsletters



UPDATE NEWSLETTER – May 2022

To: All Churches in The Peak Methodist Circuit

From: The Peak Methodist Circuit Leadership Team

Introduction

On 9th March, the Circuit meeting agreed to progress the vision of creating The Wesleyan Way (WW), a pilgrimage route around the Peak Circuit. Permission was given to the Circuit Leadership Team (CLT), to investigate and implement ways forward. It was agreed that this would include selling some properties, no longer required, to support our current activities and for the pilgrimage. These sales will help with necessary funding. We will also source funding from grant giving bodies. Agreement was also given to go ahead with recruiting a Circuit Administration Manager, a job role which could develop into the employment of an additional person as a Pilgrimage Manager. Both roles would need to be flexible, developing as the pilgrimage route itself develops.

Purpose

The purpose for this letter is to give everyone an update of progress thus far. For ease of reference, a copy of the paper presented to the Circuit meeting is attached.

Sale of Chapels – Thornhill, Elton, Rowsley & Bradwell Bethlehem Sunday School

1. A new report from the surveyor stated that the sale of both Thornhill and Elton should be by auction. Hilary Batterbee has set this up with Bagshaws and the various papers etc for this to take place are now being completed by the solicitor, and also Joan Carr and Malcolm Letts who will be the signatories.
2. Bradwell Bethlehem Sunday School building is posing a problem, because at the present time, no Title Deeds have been found. If as you read this, you have any information re this building, then please contact Joan on joan.bramwyn26@me.com or 01629 826 776.
3. Rowsley is to be prepared for sale.

Circuit Administration Manager

We are working towards advertising this post in the Summer with a view to having someone in post by September 2022. The situation at this time is: A meeting has been held with the District Employment Officer (DEO), who has drafted a job description. This has been discussed by the CLT (10th May) who are now going back to the DEO with suggested amendments.

The Wesleyan Way (WW)

A proposed first phase of the route has now been planned, a copy of which is attached. Those included in this proposed first phase can choose to opt in or out. As the WW develops, more chapels will have the opportunity to do likewise. Some chapels who choose

to take part will offer basic accommodation. This is a wonderful opportunity for all chapels, if they so choose, to be part of this missional way forward.

Alongside being a mission place to pilgrims, chapels on the route will still be used for worship and as local community spaces.

Currently steps are being made for a pilot test to take place in Baslow. Different groups, i.e., family with children, couples, adult group, will be asked to follow a planned walk and stay overnight at Baslow chapel.

At each chapel, whether accommodation is offered or not, there will be opportunity for those on pilgrimage to learn about the history of each chapel and the area. Importantly, there will also be available resources for spiritual enrichment. The purpose of the WW is not to be seen as a way to merely keep our buildings, but that this is a missional opportunity in which we can come alongside those on pilgrimage. It is also an opportunity to develop relationships with our local communities as they can be invited to collaborate with us in the building up and offering of various facilities. For instance, if anyone has an interest in gardening, they can help maintain gardens; if there is a local café, they might be interested in providing refreshments; local hotels/B&B's can be listed as places of accommodation if bookings at chapels are over-subscribed.

Opportunity for all

The list of opportunities for us all to engage in the WW is endless. Whilst there is still planning and developing of the vision to do, the CLT are very clear that the WW is an opportunity for all to join in with mission. We all have particular gifts and talents. How might you be able to use yours? There could be painting weekends, writing retreats, need for building work to be done, offering basic hospitality, cleaning, creating documents, IT work, admin help, welcoming pilgrims and showing them around the chapel, offering to pray with pilgrims, historical knowledge of the chapel area, ability to write guided notes... Perhaps you could think more about what your particular gifts and talents are and how you could put them to use in this missional opportunity. Maybe you would you like to be part of a sub-group tasked with a certain role.

Communication

To keep everyone informed, regular updates will appear in, or with, the monthly Circuit Newsletter, 'Staying Connected.' Soon, each chapel will also have the opportunity to have a meeting with their CLT rep, at which point conversations can take place, questions asked, and ideas from everyone shared.

Closing Comment

The CLT have already shared the concept about the WW with many people from all walks of life, outside of the church. Without exception, these people have stated that they think the proposal is excellent and whether they are Christian or not, would walk The Wesleyan Way. This in itself speaks into the WW as being about mission, not merely about saving buildings. We hope that you share in the excitement! We are further encouraged by the support that we are receiving from Deacon Lorraine Brown, Peak Park Rural Development Officer, Neil Harland, District Mission Enabler and Tom Rattigan, District Property Officer, whose expertise is proving to be invaluable.

The way ahead can be seen as both exciting but also challenging. When we enter into the realms of doing something new that is often the case. What is important is that we keep a two-way communication channel open and all of us work together in this Kingdom building opportunity.

There has been a lot to communicate in this first Update. Hopefully we will be able to shorten future Updates but we do want to keep you fully informed so we look forward to sharing more with you in the very near future. In the meantime, if you would like to talk to any of us about this, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours in Christ,

*Rev Julie Letts, Deacon David Hunt, Rev Jonathan Brook
Joan Carr, Aline Danks, Tom Donoghue
Malcolm Letts, Heather Thomas, Sheila Travis*

The Peak Methodist Church Circuit Leadership Team

Encs: The Wesleyan Way document, The Wesleyan Way Walk Phase 1

Copy: Rev Adrian Perry

UPDATE NEWSLETTER – July 2022

To: All Churches in The Peak Methodist Circuit

From: The Peak Methodist Circuit Leadership Team



Dear all,

Here is the second update newsletter which, as we hoped it would be, is much shorter than May's edition. If you would like a copy of May's edition, please do let us know.

Your Circuit Leadership Team met on 23rd June at Castleton and continued to discuss plans for our new pilgrimage trail. Much of our focus was on plans for our first pilot this summer, and then on breaking down the tasks that need to be undertaken between now and next spring when we hope to launch. We came away still excited but aware there is much to be done in a short space of time.

We noted the broad range of skills and knowledge needed to do this well. And were reminded of how these gifts, knowledge and energy are shared across many people across our circuit, so we will need your help! Please get in touch with any of the Circuit Leadership Team (names at the foot of this letter), if you could assist with any of the items below.

Pilot - We will be holding a first pilot pilgrimage around Baslow over the summer, to fine tune our ideas. We are looking for a diverse selection of small groups of people willing to be our guinea pigs and give feedback on what worked well and what we need to tweak. In particular we are looking for people who are intrigued by the idea of "pilgrimage" but are not members of any church. Do you know anyone who might be interested?

Stories – We need to start compiling stories for pilgrims to engage with as they walk and information to display in the chapels they will visit. This will be particularly focused on the chapels included in the first phase of our pilgrimage: expected to be Youlgreave, Great

Longstone, Baslow, Hathersage, Castleton and Edale. (See map attached which was sent out with our first letter but here for you as a reminder). We will need stories of our chapels and the villages in which they are situated, stories from their history and origins, and things that make them distinctive to this day. We will need local historians and story keepers. And people who can draw out patterns from these stories, and thereby create a narrative for pilgrims to engage with as they journey.

Consultations - Starting the pilgrimage creates opportunities to invest in our buildings as places of gathering and community in our villages, and a context to start conversations about mission afresh. We need to begin this over the summer, holding community consultations in our phase one churches. We can tell our neighbours about our vision and plans. But more importantly we need to listen to what matters to them, what facilities their village needs, and how we might address this together. We will be seeking grants towards the cost of improvements to our buildings, and funders will want to know that we have done a thorough listening exercise, so we will need to make sure this feedback gets written down before we can start writing applications. We will speak with congregations about how best to go about this, and will need several people to be involved in facilitating conversations.

We also finalised the job description for the new post of Circuit Operations Manager, intended to simplify and modernise processes across the Circuit, releasing more time for us to focus on mission. This post is currently being advertised on Methodist Website and can be accessed by clicking on the link below. Please bring it to the attention of anyone who may be interested. It is certainly an exciting time to be joining the Circuit staff team.

On the property front, Elton and Thornhill chapels will be going to auction this month. Funds raised by the sales will be used to help fund the way forward of the Circuit.

If there is anything at all that you would like more information or clarification on, then please do get in touch with either one of us. And don't forget: to be successful in this missional initiative, WE NEED YOU.

Yours in Christ,

*Rev Adrian Perry, Rev Julie Letts, Deacon David Hunt, Rev Jonathan Brook
Joan Carr, Aline Danks, Tom Donoghue
Malcolm Letts, Heather Thomas, Sheila Travis*

The Peak Methodist Church Circuit Leadership Team

Encs:

The Wesleyan Way Walk Phase 1

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/connect/jobs-volunteering/jobs-around-the-connexion/circuit-operations-manager-sheffield-closing-date-5th-august-2022/>

Appendix 3 – project finances

	Total	Great Longstone	Baslow	Castleton	Youlgreave	Hathersage	
CHAPEL PREPARATION							
new lock + thumbscrew on main door		300	300	300	300	300	
new internal lock						200	
keysafe		100	100	100	100	100	
Toliet incl washbasin		5,000					
Shower		5,000	5,000	7,000	5,000	5,000	
Internal walls		5,000					
Heating		5,670					
secondary glazing/ window replacement		2,000		1,500			
Redecoration		2,000		1,000			
Kitchenette		8,000			8,000	8,000	
Sufficient plug sockets		500		250	250	250	
Low energy lighting		1,000	1,000	500	1,000	1,000	
Fire safety equipment		500	100	100	500	100	
fire exit crash bar			500				
carbon monoxide alarm		100	100				
curtains/ blinds		2,000		1,000	2,000	2,000	
garden fence & paving		1,250					
Contingency		8,000		1,000	8,000	8,000	
	116,370	46,420	7,100	12,750	25,150	24,950	
Professional fees	2,000						
EQUIPMENT/ FURNISHINGS							
Breakfast table							
Literature and displays		500	500	500	500	500	
First aid kit		100	100	100	100	100	
Camp beds & pillows		300	300	300	300	300	6 at £50
Sanitary bins		30	30	30	30	30	
	4,650	930	930	930	930	930	
Total chapel preparation	123,020						
PILGRIMAGE STORY & EXPERIENCE							
Walking guide - book	1,500	Mixam £1,000 for 48 page A5 colour recycled paper, 1,000 copies. Additional £500 for layout assistance.					
Walking guide - mobile app	0	advice from Sam - link to other apps instead					
Total pilgrimage story & experience	1,500						
SALES AND BOOKINGS							
Website	2,000	£500 to build circuit website, without booking facilities					
Total sales & bookings	2,000						
MARKETING							
Outsourced marketing plan & implementation	5,000	estimate - to obtain quotes by end Aug					
Branding & logo	200	£300 for district					
Social media boosting	500						
Printed literature	500	5,000 recycled paper at Instaprint £255, more for eco ink etc					
Branded T shirts	1,300	GoCustom 100 recycled T shirts with logo @£13. Recover some cost through sale?					
Videos	1,000	cf Dan Morrell district quote					
Total marketing	8,500						
FORMING OUR TEAM							
Pilgrimage manager laptop	1,000	Applications to submit					
Pilgrimage manager mobile	400	District					
Total forming team costs	1,400	TMCP Grants					
		Benefact					
		Laing Family Trust					
		Norwood & Newton					
Total start up costs	136,420	Duke of Devonshire					
		Derbyshire Environment Trust (landfill)					
FUNDING	£	Princes Countryside					
Circuit	36,000	Better Derbyshire Dales					
Castleton legacy	5,000	Garfield Weston					
Total secured	41,000	Derbyshire CC					
		Rank Foundation					
Still to raise	95,420	Joseph Rank					

Appendix 4 – Current Financial Position of Circuit as at 9/8/2022

RBS C/A	£4,592.21	
RBS D/A	£6,002.23	(used for Missional Purposes)
CFB A/C	£10,332.76	
CMTF	£102,809.54	(as at 30/6/22)

Funds already Committed

Per CMTF –

£15k pa to RBS D/A for missional purposes (Agreed for 4 years).

£59k re projected shortfall in Annual Circuit Finances.

This includes: -

Previous Budgeted shortfall - £29k

Cost of new Circuit Ops Manager position - £19k

Ongoing annual costs of closed churches (Baslow, Great Longstone, Rowsley) - £5k

TMCP Levy re Funds held in CMTF - £5k (We previously had no reserves therefore only made a very small payment).

Reduction in rental income from 2 churches previously let & now sold (see below) - £2.5k

Reductions in Church assessment contributions due to financial constraints/closures - £24k

Reduced by: -

No replacement for retired Part time Deacon position - £18k

Loss of previous P/T Admin Clerk (Ill health) - £8k

From RBS D/A

£6k towards the shower at Baslow MC (from existing balance).

£9k pa towards the Pioneer Minister salary at The Hub, Hope (2nd year of a 3-year commitment).

Great Longstone Project

The Circuit Meeting has already agreed to support this project to the tune of £30k but it is hoped and expected that a significant portion of these outgoings will be covered by future grant applications.

General Comments

Included in the reduction in Church assessments is a very recent decision by the largest church within the Circuit to reduce its assessment by just over £15k per annum wef. 1/9/22.

Against this we have recently sold at auction the 2 previously let closed churches which have achieved higher prices than their reserve figures. Expected sale prices were £130k but have sold for a total of £210k. These funds will provide additional reserves to cover ongoing annual shortfalls until income generated from the PWW comes on board which will assist with the expected appointment of a part time Pilgrimage Operations Manager to handle bookings, ongoing management etc.

From Circuit Churches

Castleton MC have committed to spend from their own resources approx. £5/6k for the installation of a shower.

Malcolm Letts

Peak Methodist Circuit Treasurer

9th August 2022