

# FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

Our strategy for resourcing your mission 2020-25

## LEADING TEAM PROGRESS UPDATE

8 SEPTEMBER 2022



Leading Team has been focusing on one strand of our strategy in each meeting. From this we set related targets and actions. Dates below are 12 months from when agreed, although order of next discussion may vary.

This paper sets out progress on key items agreed at previous meetings and other key strategy updates. It only touches on the significant pieces of work with implications across the district or for direction action by Leading Team. Please do say if more (or less) information would be helpful here. *Changes since last meeting are in blue italics*

Items for major discussion are set out in separate papers. A full copy of our strategy is available at <https://www.sheffieldmethodist.org/about-us/for-such-a-time-as-this.html>

### PASSIONATE CONTEXTUAL WORSHIP

Priorities between now and September 2022:

<b>Pooling of WLP tutoring across the district</b> to allow for specialisation, reducing time commitment for tutors, and wider pool of peers and teachers for trainees.	Sean started discussion with Graham Jones (Learning Network) and Bob Bartindale (Connexional WLP Officer). Claire Rawlinson has been accepted as a WLP tutor and has started to make links with circuits and with Bob. These relationships will need to be built before introducing further changes to tutoring.
<b>Offer recorded online district prayers</b> at moments of significance across the life of the district	Prayers being shared around district events and liturgical calendar, getting reasonable level of engagement (e.g. 100+ Facebook views)
Create a <b>hybrid worship community of practice</b>	Two webinars held in March. Relatively small numbers of attendees but productive conversations, with follow up resources shared via website and Mission News.  Whilst there is some good practice across the district, overall picture is that pressures of providing for existing gathered congregations is squeezing time available for continued innovation in reaching out to new and existing people via digital means.

### SHARING STORIES

Priorities between now and November 2022:

<b>Focus on making testimony normal within congregational life</b> , with support for making testimony normal beyond the faith community and then creating a	Positive informal feedback from April synod, with formal feedback request to be circulated and will follow up to learn more about contexts where synod learning has changed local practice.
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culture of invitation to relationship to follow in later years.	<p>Mission news blogs published in spring in lead up to synod.</p> <p>District weekly news now starting with a good news story from around the district each week.</p> <p>Claire will attend local preacher meetings across the district in the autumn.</p>
<b>Communications audit</b> to review (and model reviewing) impact of increased district communications	<p>Communications audit conducted, with changes made to weekly mailing (more focus on specific topics) and social media (timing of posts and more use of graphics). Print friendly version of weekly mailing now available.</p> <p>Barnsley Circuit have also conducted a communications audit.</p>
<b>Website baseline</b> support all circuits in having fit for purpose website	<i>On track for all remaining circuits to have up to date websites with modern feel (using ThenMedia package) in the coming months.</i>

## GROWING DISCIPLES

Priorities between now and January 2023:

<b>Focus on nurturing leaders</b> in September 2022 synod	Noted importance of celebrating and supporting diversity in leadership
<b>Growing young disciples</b> - restarting district-wide high impact events	<p>Successful youth event in June.</p> <p><i>Small numbers for family picnic, probably due to weather so to continue trialling</i></p> <p><i>Over 50 young people and leaders booked to attend 3Generate</i></p>
<b>Growing young disciples</b> - growing community of practice for CFY leaders	<p>Regular Zoom gatherings already being held.</p> <p><i>Planning underway for trial district autumn retreat for employed &amp; volunteer leaders.</i></p>
<b>Growing young disciples</b> - launching <i>One Programme: District</i> (3 hour internships for 16-23 year olds)	<p><i>Soft launch planned for September 2022 synod</i></p> <p><i>Preparations underway for weekend training event for potential interns in February 2023 in partnership with Yorkshire West &amp; Yorkshire North &amp; East</i></p> <p><i>Other preparations in hand based on planned start date of September 2023 for first interns</i></p>
<b>Foster small group discipleship</b> encouraging and gathering learning from range of initiatives across our circuits	<p>Neil, Victoria and others from our district attended the Reimaging Discipleship event at Cliff College. Re-interpretation of way of life approaches presented feel more likely to be valuable in promoting thinking about discipleship.</p>

## TRANSFORMING MISSION

Priorities between now and March 2023, following in particular from Mission Forum with Eunice Attwood:

Identify opportunities and needs for breaking new ground	Gathering questionnaires from groups who are already/ seek to form new Christian communities, summary to be presented in November. <i>Liaising with Connexional Evangelism &amp; Growth Team about how to avoid duplication in accessing district and connexional grant support where needed.</i>
Support some “quick wins” to raise awareness and enable local teams to take a visible step forward.	NPNP Pilot pioneer started in post – to be publicised Appetite has been expressed for a gathering/ networking event for leadership teams of new Christian communities – <i>to be held in November or January</i> <i>District website to be updated in September with stories, support available, invitation to discuss starting a new Christian community</i> <i>Professional videos to be produced and widely shared in October telling stories from local new Christian communities</i>

*Following strong response to initial publicity we will continue to promote use of church buildings as inclusive warm spaces in a winter cost of living crisis. Solutions are inherently contextual and local – role of district being to inspire, challenge and share best practice.*

## PROPERTIES FIT FOR MISSION

Priorities between now and July 2023:

Recruit <b>Property Advisory Panel</b> to support Missional Property Enabler on £100k+ or complex property projects	<i>Hope to have proposed members for November meeting</i>
Encourage use of <b>professional carbon footprint reduction reviews</b> with up to £50k funding allocated for grants up to £1,000 each	<i>Negotiating scope with potential preferred supplier, churches able to use others if they prefer.</i> <i>To conduct pilots to test quality in September/ October</i> <i>Hope to have available for all churches by November</i>
Support circuits in <b>exploring Eco Church/ Eco Circuit</b>	<i>Conversation to be held with each circuit about what would be helpful for them</i> <i>Involve those who have previously expressed interest through the climate crisis community of practice.</i>
Launch <b>community of practice</b> for people with property management responsibilities	<i>To meet monthly, starting in September</i>
Produce <b>simplified guidance</b> for consents website expectations and other common property matters	<i>Property section added to district website</i> <i>Tom has played an active role in major overhaul of property guidance on Connexional website</i>

<p><b>Be alert to</b> mechanisms to lift property management burdens from churches/circuits, particularly for complex properties or where local people are significantly overstretched.</p>	<p><i>Discussions ongoing about potential solutions for small number of locations.</i></p>
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## SIMPLIFYING PROCEDURES

*See grants overview for simplification of district grants process.*

Improvements to district database to improve efficiency of communication are ongoing. Updating and adding key officers deferred to avoid clash with safeguarding and GDPR reporting.

Katrin has worked with TMCP to simplify GDPR self-audit reporting.

*Whilst rolling out advanced safeguarding training has been a major challenge and is not yet complete, we have logged when update training will be required, which should assist with pro-actively arranging this in future years.*

*Due to other commitments it has not been possible to hold focussed conversations about simplifying procedures over the summer. We will need to pick this up in preparation for discussion at DLT the coming months.*