

FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

Our strategy for resourcing your mission 2020-25

LEADING TEAM PROGRESS UPDATE

8 NOVEMBER 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. 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>

Format of this report has been tweaked – any feedback gratefully received!

PASSIONATE CONTEXTUAL WORSHIP

Action	Led by	Since last meeting	Before next meeting	Longer term plans	Challenges not yet resolved
Pooling of WLP tutoring across the district to benefit students and tutors.	Claire Rawlinson	Claire has met with most local preacher meetings and has identified some people who would be willing to tutor one section as part of a team.		Aim to have pool of tutors in place for those starting training Sept 2023, subject to agreement from stakeholders. Alongside this to publicise stories about new local preachers across the district	Switching between tutors on training software currently outside our control and can be slow This won't solve the parallel challenge of shortages of mentors
Offer recorded online district prayers at moments of significance across the life of the district	Sam Roberts	Prayers for Iran from Arman Ghamari.	District-wide online advent calendar to be offered, with contributions from all circuits, linking to Connexional "There Is Room" resources. This will provide a social media resource for churches & circuits not in a position to create their own		
Create a hybrid worship community of practice	Neil Harland/ Claire Rawlinson				Whilst there are various hybrid/digital expressions of worship around the district, most of those involved seem to have multiple commitments, so investing time in next stage of development is hard

SHARING STORIES

Action	Led by	Since last meeting	Before next meeting	Longer term plans	Challenges not yet resolved
Focus on making testimony normal within congregational life	Neil Harland	positive feedback on use of testimony at last synod		To review impact/ current practice (by May) in preparation for proposed focus on sharing stories beyond faith community in Sept 2023 synod	
Website baseline support all circuits in having fit for purpose website	Sam Roberts	New Doncaster website launched		Development of new websites for Peak and Rotherham & Dearne Valley ongoing. Trinity planned but not yet scheduled	
First Story of the Year print publication distributed around district, to increase non-digital access to district-wide stories	Sam Roberts	Publication finalised	Print versions to be distributed to circuits		

GROWING DISCIPLES

Action	Led by	Since last meeting	Before next meeting	Longer term plans	Challenges not yet resolved
Focus on nurturing leaders in September 2022 synod	Gill Newton	Positive feedback from synod. Resources circulated			
Growing young disciples - restarting district-wide high impact events	Vic Loveday	75 young people and leaders from our district attended 3Generate, increased from previous year		District youth day to be repeated in spring, with anticipated higher attendance. Family events to continue to be trialled	
Growing young disciples - growing community of practice for CFY leaders	Vic Loveday	CFY leaders retreat held at Hagg Farm. Whilst continued beneficial by those who attended, alternative flexible ways of providing refreshing/ learning/ networking opportunities will be researched for next year		Continue & embed monthly community of practice	
Growing young disciples - launching <i>One Programme: District</i> (3 hour internships for 16-23 year olds)	Vic Loveday	Soft launch at September synod		Regional training weekend for potential interns (Feb) with first interns to start Sept 2023	

Justice Seekers community of practice

Since Sheffield Circuit was established, it has had a Justice & Peace Mission Action Group. A number of other groups were set up at the time, but this one has persisted because it serves a function of enabling people with overlapping passions, expertise and interests to share news, ideas, and at times to lament.

The existing members of the group would like to extend invitation to people from beyond the circuit's boundaries, becoming a district community of practice. Sheffield Circuit are supportive of this.

The District Mission Enabler, and potentially the EDI Officer, would relate to the community. It benefits from already having a committed core who would continue to take an active lead, which should make it more long lasting than the climate crisis community started in 2021. Pattern of activities anticipated is

Learning

Changing

Joining in

periodic hybrid gatherings, email communication of relevant news and potentially a more structured annual conversation/ conference (for which a small budget may be required). The community would be launched at April 2023 synod, which will have a justice-seeking theme.

TRANSFORMING MISSION

Action	Led by	Since last meeting	Before next meeting	Longer term plans	Challenges not yet resolved
Support and encourage locally identified opportunities for new Christian communities , learning from District NPNP Pilot and other opportunities	Neil Harland	Guidance & support added to district website New Christian communities team held first meeting – informal gathering of people with differing experiences to test ideas Status of various opportunities and their needs collated Discussions held with E&G team about balancing efficiency vs rigour in accessing Connexional funding for circuit-led communities.	Progress and opportunities update to be presented to next meeting	Three professional videos of new Christian communities to be filmed for wide circulation along with other guidance in January	
Provide £500 seed grants to encourage provision of Warm Spaces this winter in response to cost of living crisis (£20k allocated)	Neil Harland	Guidance & grant process written, launched and extensively promoted. At time of writing 21 grants have been awarded, with more expected.		In context of a learning through a rapidly developing response: Informal check in with each Warm Space (Dec) Zoom discussions for Warm Spaces to share learnings (Jan) Grant evaluation (March)	

PROPERTIES FIT FOR MISSION

Action	Led by	Since last meeting	Before next meeting	Longer term plans	Challenges not yet resolved
Property Advisory Panel to support MPE on £100k+/ complex property projects	Tom Rattigan		Panel members to be safely recruited		
Provide 50% grants (max £1,000 each) for carbon footprint reduction reviews of chapels (£50k allocated)	Tom Rattigan	Pilot survey tailored to needs of our chapels tested with potential recommended supplier. Anticipated cost significantly less than £1,000 per chapel.	Grants scheme to be launched		Whilst tailored surveys will highlight quick wins, significant carbon savings will require capital investment
Support circuits in exploring Eco Church/ Eco Circuit	Tom Rattigan			Conversation to be had with each circuit about what would be helpful for them	
Launch community of practice for people with property management responsibilities	Tom Rattigan	First Zoom gatherings held. Small but growing engagement.			
Produce simplified guidance for consents website expectations and other common property matters	Tom Rattigan			Guidance/ checklist for post cease-to-meet options being discussed with superintendents	
Be alert to mechanisms to lift property management burdens from churches/ circuits, particularly for complex properties or where local people are significantly overstretched.	Tom Rattigan			Discussions ongoing about potential solutions for small number of locations.	

SIMPLIFYING PROCEDURES

Action	Led by	Since last meeting	Before next meeting	Longer term plans	Challenges not yet resolved
Upgrade District database to allow targeted information/ requests to most relevant people	Katrin Hackett	Safeguarding officers added following safeguarding audits		To have an accurate lay point of contact for each church (Dec 2022) To then add other key roles relating directly to district activities, to avoid requests to pass on information	
Seek feedback on simplification needs across the district to develop prioritised action plan	Neil Harland			Focussed conversations to be held to identify common needs (for March meeting)	