

# ***FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS***

Our strategy for resourcing your mission 2020-25

## **LEADING TEAM PROGRESS UPDATE**

**8 MAY 2024**



This paper sets out key actions and updates since our last meeting.

A copy of the full paper from September and the overall progress against this reported to our March meeting can be made available for new DLT members.

Our original strategy including the overall “theory of change” (what is our context, what do we hope will be different in the future, and what needs to be done in the meantime to enable this) is available for reference at: <https://www.sheffieldmethodist.org/about-us/for-such-a-time-as-this.html>

## **GROWING DISCIPLES**

### **ONE Programme District interns**

An updated implication pack is now available for the next intake, who will start their internships in September this year. Vic Loveday is in active conversations with circuits and churches, but please do speak with her if you know a young person who may be suitable. We hope to have more than the three interns we have had this year, but are unlikely to reach capacity within the scheme next year.

### **Supporting lay employees**

We had six lay employees from our district attend the recent Lay Employees Retreat, up from three the previous year. Feedback from those who attend continues to be positive, and we hope to spread news of the event to employees and line managers.

Westfield Health will be presenting to DLT on their Employee Assistance Programme, which comes recommended by the Lay Employment Panel. The proposal is that this scheme first be trialled for district staff to see how it works in practice before recommending to circuits and churches.

Roll out of reflective supervision for lay employees will be discussed at the next superintendents' gathering.

### **Celebrating and affirming people in leadership roles**

McCauley Key and Julie Coates are organising a gathering for Methodist chaplains, hopefully in June.

Vic is organising a District celebration service on 9 June to celebrate children and youth leaders, especially volunteers. Targeted invitations are being sent via ministers and lay pastors.

## **PASSIONATE CONTEXTUAL WORSHIP**

### **Metal Methodist - Digital expression of church**

The previously notified application has now been submitted to the Connexional Digital NPNP Fund for interim start up funding for a fixed term social media manager (District employee or self-employed).

## **Growing District Youth Day and 3Generate**

Another successful District Youth Day was held at Hesley Woods.

Bookings are now open for 3Generate. We are still hopeful that the number of people attending from our district will continue to grow, although some previously key leaders may not be available.

## **SHARING STORIES**

### **Media training**

Sam Roberts has arranged two full days of media training, in May and June, supported by the Connexional Media Team. Feedback from this training will inform how we can further equip key individuals from across the district in speaking confidently and clearly with media organisations.

### **New Beginnings seed funding**

Seed funding scheme for helping new people start journeys of discipleship launched at District Gathering and in our magazine. Conversations have started to spread news of this across circuits and churches.

## **TRANSFORMING MISSION**

### **Life on the Breadline exhibition**

Over 200 people visited this exhibition across two churches in Sheffield and one in Barnsley, plus others who used the accompanying lent study course. Primarily those who attended were already supportive of the agenda of the exhibition – that churches are already actively involved in effective “sticking plaster” responses, such as food banks, but we need to be more confident to also speak boldly and prophetically in the political sphere. It did however serve as a galvanising and networking force for these people, which will hopefully lead to meaningful conversations about priorities and institutional culture in the circuits and churches (and other denominations) involved.

Via the justice seekers network we hope to be able to involve all parliamentary candidates across the district in conversations about responses to poverty using Let’s End Poverty resources.

### **God for All Funding 2025 to 2032**

The Methodist Council has commended review and extension of the Connexional *God For All* evangelism and growth strategy to this summer’s Methodist Conference.

The extension includes proposals to fund two half time posts in each district:

- New Places for New People Lead – supporting, encouraging and overseeing new Christian communities and pioneers across circuits – currently this falls within the Mission Enabler role financed via district funds
- Faith Rooted Community Organiser – intended to spread more widely the teaching being delivered through residential weekend courses at Cliff College. Whilst this will be a new way of working for many of our churches, we have heritage and current deep expertise already within our district, e.g. through UTU and Freedom Community Project

Funding for new Christian communities will also continue, albeit likely at a lower level than the £156k we have been provided with to apportion to circuits between now and May 2026.

## **PROPERTIES FIT FOR MISSION**

### **Environmental policy**

The Hope for Action report approved by Methodist Council includes allocation of funds to districts to finance moves towards net zero. Tom Rattigan has been involved in developing these proposals, and the Eco surveys he developed for use within our district are now being recommended to other districts. Our allocation is expected to be in the region of £185k. Accessing this funding requires having a district environmental policy.

Separately we have reached the second round of bidding for Centrica's Energy for Tomorrow Midlands Campaign. If ultimately successful we may be able to access funding of up to £100k, which could include a part time fixed term District Eco Officer and support for property projects based within Derbyshire.

It is suggested that a small working party, drawing expertise from across our circuits, draft an environmental policy, including how we would use funding available to support circuits and churches. This would be brought back to DLT for discussion and approval.