



# The Methodist Church in Sheffield

... growing followers of Jesus

## **Living Out God's Mission in Sheffield**

### **Sheffield Circuit Church Review - Stage 2 (2017-2019)**

#### **Welcome**

In 2015 the Methodist Church in Sheffield agreed that as Methodist People in Sheffield we would trust, encourage and enable Christ-Centred Communities across Sheffield to

- Grow Followers of Jesus Christ
- Celebrate God's presence and God's love in daily living
- Be good neighbours to people in need and challenge injustice
- Work together on issues of concern in public life

Stage 1 of the Circuit Review was completed at the beginning of 2017, that enabled our churches to ask questions of themselves, regarding how effective they had been in mission, and to make mission plans for the next 3-5 years as they looked to the future, and for some churches it meant taking a courageous step to say that their mission in that place was now accomplished.

The facilitation of the review across the Circuit produced mixed emotions, but the Interim Report as we came towards the end of the 3-year process, enabled us to grasp a picture of the Circuit which showed that there is a mixed economy of churches. Some are thriving, growing followers of Jesus, and celebrating Gods love in daily living, sometimes in a reasonably 'traditional way'. From the review, some churches began to show signs of emergent growth, through looking at new ways of engaging with mission outside the church buildings. While others continue to seek and sometimes struggle to be relevant to the communities in which they are situated.

The first 3 years of the review system highlighted that whether we are a 'healthy church' at present or not, none of us can stand still, we all have been called to follow Christ and continue to be a pilgrim people.

As we endeavour to watch over one another in love, to grow followers of Jesus and to love our neighbours, so we need to continue to look towards an on -going review system, as we want to commit in Sheffield Circuit to being a learning Circuit, to realise that as disciples of Jesus we are lifelong learners, and as regards mission we can never say 'we have arrived'. This ongoing review

will equip you as a church, to assess the health of your churches, and help us as a Circuit to see what we may need in resources to equip churches in the future.

**So, we invite you to be part of Stage 2 of the Review**, this time there will be no external facilitation provided by the Circuit, but we ask that you as a church community take this seriously, working together to see where God may be leading you in mission over the next few years. This stage 2 review will continue to inform the Circuit about resources, but it is primarily to inform your local mission, to celebrate God at work where you are, and to pray and wonder together where Christ is leading you and to make good plans.

***This is what the Lord says: Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it..... Jer 6:16***

***Every blessing in your journey and enjoy!***

## **Timeframe**

- The review will begin with the ministers or lay ministers choosing which churches they will engage with the review process with, either in the year 2017-18 or 2018-19. Ministers will discern if they want to review one of their churches, or possibly take two smaller ones together.
- The training in 'appreciative enquiry' will be offered to all ministers and lay ministers in the autumn 2017, with possibly refresher courses in the following years.
- To get the maximum benefit of the exercise, Staff are strongly advised to partner with another member of staff, so they could facilitate each other's review process.
- The review process should be started by January and completed by the 31<sup>st</sup> July in either year.
- In June of each year the ministers who have been involved in the review process and possibly 2 or 3 of the church members, will engage in a listening exercise, where churches will feedback to each other what has been helpful, what their churches are delighting in, and what they are being challenged with.
- At the end of the review process the church will fill in a summary sheet, and return it to the Mission Vision Team for the September meeting, and the return will be acknowledged in the MVT minutes.
- All churches should keep their review papers that could be used within stationing and when applying for grants.

**Before you engage with this process**, meet to pray together about your church and community. Celebrate all that God has done, consider prayerfully where you are now, and what God may be asking of you in the future.

Use your previous facilitated review, and the response you made as a starting point. Your Church Council should have a completed review paper, or the Circuit Office holds copies if you need one.

You will also need to have a leaflet '**Living out Gods Mission in Sheffield**' for reference purposes, you should have a copy in your church, or you will find it on the Circuit Website, or ask the Circuit Office for another copy.

If you have vision statements and current mission action plans then include them in your discussions.

**Reflection** – consider if you need to begin reflecting on where you are with a small group (e.g stewards) or through your Church Council, or perhaps in worship?

Remembering how as a Circuit and as Churches we committed to a cohesion framework in December 2016 (which you can find on the Circuit web site) which helped us consider our mission where we were placed. So, ask yourselves how will you engage the community, or other denominations or faith groups in your area? How may you engage with the population around you to help you understand how others 'see the church'? Consider creative ways to obtain feedback from a cross section of people in the churches life, remembering to consult all age groups?

**Who will be involved and when?** This is space to write down who you are going to involve in this review and when you will consult them.

Task	Who is involved?	Target date
Complete summary sheet and send to MVT	-----	<b>By 31<sup>st</sup> July of the year in which you agreed to do this Stage 2 review.</b>

## **SECTION 1 – CHURCH DETAILS**

**Name of Church**

**Situation: Urban/ Rural / Estate / City Centre /Suburbs**

**Date when Stage 1 Review was completed:**

**Contact Information:**

## **Section 2 -Where were you starting from?**

**Look at the paperwork from your previous review**

What do you celebrate as you look back at this review? What is your collective memory of this time?  
What are your positive stories?

**Write any comments that come to mind as you look back.**

(What positives came out of the review? What has it enabled us to do? What are we looking forward to working on in the future? What stories do we remember?)

## **Section 3 – Where are you now?**

**To help you reflect on this, please use the ‘Living out Gods Mission in Sheffield Leaflet’ to reflect on these questions.**

Consider these four missional headings:

- Growing Followers of Jesus Christ
- Celebrating God’s Presence and God’s love in daily living
- Being Good Neighbours to people in need and challenging Injustice
- Working together on Issues of concern in Public Life

**Q3.1 In the light of these headings what 2 to 3 things have you valued or seen demonstrated in your Church and Community in the last three years of mission?**

Please make comments under the headings: -

**Growing Followers of Jesus**

**Celebrating God's presence and God's love** in Daily Living

**Being Good Neighbours** to people in need and challenging injustice

**Working Together on Issues of Concern** in Public Life

**Q3.2 In the light of these headings what 2 to 3 things have been most challenging in the last 3 years of your mission? What have you learnt?**

Please make comments under the headings:

**Growing Followers of Jesus**

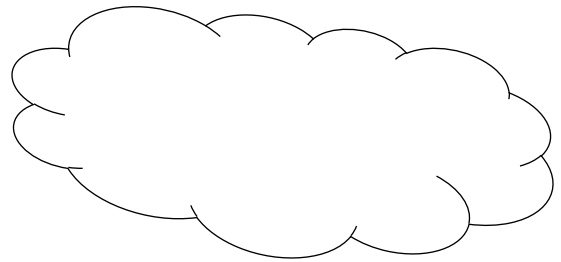
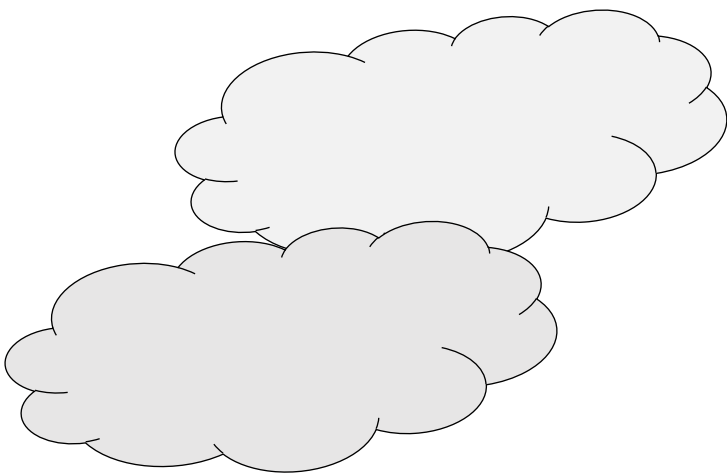
**Celebrating God's Presence and God's love in Daily Living**

**Being Good Neighbours to people in need and challenging injustice**

**Working together on Issues of Concern in Public Life**

**Q3.3 Looking at what you valued and what you found challenging, what have you learnt in the process?**

**Q3.4 We wonder what other dreams or visions you had for your Church and Community and what happened to them? Why is that?**



**Celebrate! – Let’s celebrate!!**

**Celebrate! – And celebrate some more!!**

Before you move on to this next section, you may want to pause to pray, and to celebrate all that God has done in your church and community over the last 3 years, to perhaps have a party to give thanks for the small things of life as well as the big ones.

**How will you celebrate?**





## **Section 4 Where are You Going?**

Taking into account the last 3 years, the things that you are celebrating, as well as those ideas that did not work as well as you had hoped, look ahead now to the next 3-5 years. Together plan what as a Church or community you may do to see God's mission accomplished in Sheffield and beyond, with regards to the four missional headings (as listed in Section 3 on page 4).

### **Reflection**

- Listen to your community, and together consider such aspects as:

- Welcome
- In what ways is/are your worship/ times of worship relevant? How do you know this?

- What missional opportunities might you explore to serve your community?

- How are you known by your community?
- Do they know you are there? (Don't just rely on what you think they may say, but ask them. Think about how you may do that?)

- How are you demonstrating a commitment to cohesion in welcoming, listening to and involving people from all backgrounds and experiences?

- What ecumenical relationships, and possibly relationships with other faith communities could you develop, how can you work together as churches within the community?

Considering the next 3 years, and using the four missional headings (as listed in Section 3 on page 4), and bearing in mind your resources realistically, plan for 2 or 3 things that you intend to do well as a Church, and that you can commit to, in order to live out God's Mission where you are.

### **Q4.1 How will you grow followers of Jesus?**

### **Q4.2 How will you celebrate God's presence and God's love in Daily Living?**

**Q4.3 Where are you a good neighbour in your community? How do we work together as God's people to identify areas of injustice and inequality in our community? How do we best identify local needs and challenges?**

**Q4.4 Where could you develop working together on issues in Public Life?**

## **Section 5 What Next?**

*See I am doing a new thing ..... Isaiah 43:19*

**Congratulations** for beginning to lay down some plans to advance mission in your church and community. Some vital questions to ask in order to implement this mission review are:

**Q5.1 How can we communicate this mission planning to the whole church and community?**

**Q5.2 How can we involve them in its implementation?**

**Q5.3 What are the implications for our present resources of buildings and finance? How could we address them?**

**Q5.4 How often shall we look at the plan to ensure that we are keeping to task, or altering what we have done in order to improve things?**

**Q5.5 The Sheffield Circuit is committed to being a 'Learning Circuit', by completing this review you have showed a commitment to being a learning church, is there any further learning may you need to engage with in order for you to carry out your plan?**

The Mission Vision Team would love to hear from churches that have dreams and visions but don't know how they can implement them, please contact the Mission Vision Team via the Circuit Office if you would like their input.

If you realise as a church that you are struggling with mission, and are wondering about your future, be courageous and talk to the Mission Vision Team about this. There is a Churches Support Group that can be accessed via John Young, which can enable you to talk through and wonder about your future together with this group. The circuit does have funds available to support innovative mission projects and you can find the application form on the circuit website or via the circuit office.

# **Sheffield Methodist Circuit**

## **Circuit Review Stage 2 – Summary Sheet**

**Name of Church**

**Date**

**Contact**

**Who have you involved in this review?**

**Provide a summary of the positive outcomes and challenges you have discovered as you have completed this review.**

**Which action/s will you be taking as a result of this review? Who will do what?**

**As this review process is seen as a tool to continuous evaluation of our mission, can you outline your time frame for the next round of reviews?**

**We would like help from the Circuit Yes/No**

**Let us know briefly what help you require?**

**We would appreciate any comments and feedback on the process:**