

## **To all church communities in the Sheffield Methodist Circuit**

(To be read out on Sunday 19th September 2021)

Some of you will already be aware that, Revd Lisa Quarmby stepped down from her role within the Co-Superintendency at the end of August 2021 and that Revd Sally Coleman has been on sick leave since April 2021 awaiting surgery. This means that since 1st September 2021, Revd James Morley has been the only member of the Co-Superintendency team active in the role.

Being aware that Lisa's decision and Sally's absence would have a significant impact on the functioning of the Circuit, the Circuit Stewards met with the Co-Superintendents and the District Chair to discern the appropriate way forward. It was considered that whilst these are challenging circumstances, this might also be a God-given opportunity to take stock and review the structure of the Co-Superintendency. The Circuit has been in existence now for eight years, and no such review has previously been undertaken.

Following prayer, conversation and consultation, the Circuit Stewards and we, the Circuit Leadership Team, in liaison with the District Leading Team, concluded that the Circuit is in exceptional circumstances. Therefore, a review of the Superintendency of the Circuit will take place and during the review period, Revd Gill Newton, District Chair, has been appointed by the District as the Titular<sup>1</sup> Superintendent of the Circuit.

It is important to note that the review will consider the effectiveness of the structure and not the performance of any individual who has been part of the Co-Superintendency team within the Circuit. The review will be complete by 31st December 2021 and upon completion, the Circuit Leadership Team and District Leading Team will liaise regarding what next steps need to be taken.

As a Circuit Leadership Team, we are grateful to Revds James Morley and Sally Coleman for graciously stepping aside to enable this course of action to be taken. During the period of review, they will both retain their status as Co-Superintendents but will not be fulfilling any of the responsibilities of the Superintendent. Therefore, as from September 14th, 2021, any enquiries relating to the mission, governance and life of the Circuit should be directed to Revd Gill Newton at [chair@sheffieldmethodist.org](mailto:chair@sheffieldmethodist.org) or on 07534 907423.

Please continue to hold the life of the Circuit in your prayers as it journeys through this important period of discernment.

Circuit Leadership Team  
September 14th 2021

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<sup>1</sup> Titular - inhabiting the role but not assuming the status