

## Sheffield Circuit Newsletter

11 March 2026

Please note the next newsletter will be published on 25 March. Information for the newsletter should arrive before 12noon on the day.

### Presidential Visit - 28 - 29 March

- **Saturday 28 March** – a visit to the newly opened Food Bank at the Christian Centre in Stocksbridge, and then a look at the redevelopment going on at Brightholmlee. In the evening he has been invited to take join the Metal Methodists.
- **Sunday 29 March** – An early morning interview on Radio Sheffield, then he has been invited to Killamarsh to lead their 150th Anniversary Service (details below).

### Killamarsh 150th Anniversary

Revd. Richard Andrews, President of Conference preaching with us on Sunday 29 March.

- Service at 9.45 am (car parking in Aldi car park next to the church.) The Service will also be available via Google MEET please contact us for details.
- We will be celebrating with hymns
- Coffee and cakes after the service 'til approx. noon.

Please join us if you can. Our theme for the year is “Rooted, Relevant and Reimagined”.

### District Gathering - Saturday 18 April

At Greenhill Methodist Church as we take a look at and discuss Courageous Conversations: Listening to and working with your community. Everyone is welcome to attend to learn, share and enjoy fellowship with one another.

Tickets are free just book your place here.

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/sheffieldmethodistdistrict/2033448>

### Action for Hope - Encouraging Birds

A Rocha Eco Church provides [useful advice](#) on how to encourage birds to the space and land that you look after - *Let birds multiply on the earth' (God's blessing in Genesis 1:22).*

Birds are a dynamic and visible sign of God's intention for life on earth to thrive. That alone gives us a great reason to encourage birds in our church grounds: it is an act of worship to their Creator whilst encouraging others to enjoy creation along with God and us. It is also an easy and fun way

to demonstrate our commitment to restoring a troubled planet. **The basic needs of birds - like ours - are simple: safety, food, water and shelter. With a little planning to cover the basics, you will discover that even the smallest patch has potential.\***

\*Click here for [further advice](#).

**If you would you like to join the Circuit's next environment meeting on 13 April please [email us](mailto:admin@sheffieldcircuit.org.uk) (admin@sheffieldcircuit.org.uk)**

### **Methodist Church Eco-Community Network on Wednesday 22nd April at 7pm, online**

A network for people passionate about faith and the environment; for those exploring climate justice, and those already taking action. To learn [more click here](#).

### **Manna and Mercy training course**

**7, 14, 21 and 28 April and 5 May 2026 (five sessions)**

**Woodseats Methodist Church, Holmhirst Road, S8 0GU**

During the Manna and Mercy course, we will take a fresh look at scripture through the interpretive lens of Jesus' life, death and resurrection and God's overall call for each one of us to partner with God in mending this fractured world.

The Bible is meant to be an instrument of God to enable abundant life for God's creation. Sadly, through the ages it has been read and interpreted in such a way that it has been used as an instrument of human domination, and death. It has been used to cheer on the Crusades, advocate Apartheid, sanction sexism and worship prosperity in the face of the poor, to name just a few horrors of our human history.

The hope is that after completing the course, our interpretations and use of the scriptures will be truly liberating and life-enabling for all of creation.

To book email [admin@sheffieldcircuit.org.uk](mailto:admin@sheffieldcircuit.org.uk) or phone 0114 2726561.

### **Farsi prayer meetings for Iran**

Arman Ghamari, Districts Persian Ministry Development Enabler has started a Zoom Farsi prayer meeting for the situation in Iran.

- Mondays 7:30pm
- Wednesdays 8:30pm
- Thursdays 7:30pm
- Fridays 7:30pm
- Saturdays 7:30pm

Please contact Arman [armanghamari@sheffieldmethodist.org](mailto:armanghamari@sheffieldmethodist.org) for Zoom details.

## **A prayer to God the heart of creation**

Before words and beyond imagination,  
grasped in wonder and beauty,  
realised in silence, noticed in care;  
You are Lord.

Within each atom and nucleotide,  
carried in the rhythm of every breath,  
borne in the love songs of creation;  
You are present.

Known in grace, joy and hope,  
lived in generosity and hospitality,  
found within and without us;  
You are love.

Loving Lord, divinely present,  
may we trust you enough to cease our striving and so attend to your gift among us,  
which brings meaning to all we are and all we do. Amen.

**Helen Kirk, Chair, Chester and Stoke-on-Trent District**

## **Church Events & Information**

### **An Easter Journey on Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> April at Hillsborough Trinity**

Anytime between 11.00 am to 3.00 pm

Several years ago, the Banner Group from Hillsborough Trinity began work on a series of mixed media panels. We discussed the themes of the Bible passage, the wording we would use and how we might produce each piece. We felt inspired to focus on ten elements of the story which we worked on using embroidery, paint and photography. The panels will be on display on Easter Saturday as part of our Easter Journey event. Members of Café Church have written devotions and prayers in response to the images. Cake and Coffee will be served throughout the day and a children's activity will be available.

### **The Treasurer's Handbook**

We are pleased to [launch The Treasurer's Handbook](#) to support our treasurers across the Connexion. The Handbook offers clear guidance on responsibilities and compliance, and practical assistance with key financial tasks, helping new treasurers to hit the ground running.

### **Taiz Prayer for Lent at St Andrew's Psalter Lane**

This year our Thursday services in Lent will take a slightly different pattern. Please see below:

- Thursday 12 March Taiz at 7.00 pm
- Thursday 19 March Taiz at 7.00 pm
- Thursday 26 March - Sacred Space at 7.30 pm
- Thursday 2 April - Maundy Thursday. Mission Partnership joint service at St Augustine's Brocco Bank. Time to be announced.

## Good News

### **The Cedar Tree Coffee Shop is opening 17 March**

We are at **Cedar Road as part of the Food Matters Community Hub, opposite the Spar Supermarket (Stocksbridge)**. This is a project to save waste by eating great cakes and drinking great coffee. It's open to everyone. Come and try us out. We are open Tuesday and Thursday mornings to start, and it is all run by volunteers. The Coffee Shop is also an environmental project. It will be bringing into the community the excess stock of cakes and biscuits that the manufacturers cannot sell on. So instead of sending the produce to landfill, they are offering it to Food Matters. **If anyone would like to volunteer, they can call in on a Tuesday or Thursday morning**, try out a coffee, and talk to the volunteers already there.

## Justice and Peace

### **Statement on the situation in the Middle East**

We note and share in the grave concern by the World Council of Churches to the widening hostilities across the Middle East and the dangerous escalation of violence which is fuelling a spiral of retaliation. We stand in solidarity with all communities facing fear, loss, and growing instability and call for a renewed commitment to dialogue grounded in the rule of law, with all parties striving for peace and justice. We hold in prayer all communities across the region and especially our partners, the Middle East Council of Churches, remembering the longstanding Christian witness in the region to justice and meaningful dialogue. We also remember those within our own communities who are part of the Iranian diaspora, their family and friends who are living in the midst of this conflict, and all who – whether at work or on holiday – are currently caught in the region waiting for a safe way home. Click here for the [full article](#).

## Volunteering Opportunities

### **Stocksbridge Food Bank**

Urgent appeal for volunteers at the new Cedar Tree Coffee Shop Food Matters, which runs the Food Bank and the Community Outlet is planning to open a new volunteer-run community coffee shop on March 17th. They already have two volunteers for each day when they start (Tuesday and

Thursday mornings). They would really like another volunteer for each of those mornings, and if possible, a few more to enable them to open up on more mornings. One volunteer who would like to bake a tray-bake etc., on their volunteer morning in the dedicated coffee shop kitchen, would be wonderful. Please ring Ian Lucraft on 07428 744 014, or email at [ianlucraft@btinternet.com](mailto:ianlucraft@btinternet.com), or call in on a Tuesday or Thursday morning, from 10-12.

## **Job Vacancies**

### **Youth Worker at Bents Green Methodist Church**

Seeking to appoint a Youth Worker to lead two weekly groups, one (Lighthouse) for 5-11s on Wednesday after school, and the other (Lampstand) for 11 – 18s on Friday evenings, term time only. 90 minutes would be allowed for preparation for each group, and 30 minutes for clearing up. The total hours would be 8 per week, at £15.00 per hour.

Over time to work with the post holder to develop their skills and to expand their role, increasing hours accordingly. Opportunities could include work with Junior Church, Messy Church, Girls' Brigade and Panto, or other things which develop the mission of the Church.

For more information and/or an application pack, [please click here](#).

### **ONE Opportunity Programme (internship)**

<https://www.sheffieldmethodist.org/what-we-do/children-and-youth/one-opportunity-programme.html>

We also still have spaces for anyone who is aged 16-23 interested in doing an internship. The ONE opportunity programme is a paid internship based on a minimum 3 hours per week working towards a year long project. If you know anyone who might be interested and would like a further conversation please get in touch.

## **Training**

### **Mental Health First Aid 24 and 26 March**

This is an online course that will be held on Zoom.

Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) is a nationally accredited training course which teaches people how to spot the signs and symptoms of mental ill health and provide help on a first aid basis. [Book here](#).

### **Becoming an Intercultural Church 12 May**

Intercultural competence has come to be recognised as an essential requirement for individuals and organisations in our increasingly globalised society. What does this mean for our church communities? [Book here](#).

## Safeguarding

### Advanced Safeguarding Training

We have now updated the training page on the District website with details about the face-to-face training sessions which will be taking place in 2026. There is a risk of events being cancelled if the minimum number of places is not met, so please do book in early. Full details are here (<https://www.sheffieldmethodist.org/what-we-do/safeguarding/safeguarding-training.html>)

## Other Information and News

### Deputy Foodbank Manager

Burngreave Foodbank, 18–24 hours per week

Looking for someone with a heart for people on the margins of society who can help oversee the day-to-day running of our busy foodbank and support the work serving people across Burngreave, Darnall and surrounding areas. [Full details here.](#)

### SYCLS hosts Coffee, Cake & Chat

Each year, SYCLS hosts Coffee, Cake & Chat, a fundraiser where communities come together over a cuppa, homemade cakes, and good conversation, while raising vital funds. This year's event runs from Sunday 19th - 26th April and we'd love for your church to join in! As always, events can take place at any time around these dates if that works better for you. Together, communities and churches hosted coffee mornings to raise donations. To take part, contact the Fundraising Officer, Lydia, at [lydia@sycls.co.uk](mailto:lydia@sycls.co.uk) or 07943 572650.

### HOPE Community Allotments - Women's Sessions

**Tuesdays 12.30 - 2.30pm at High Wincobank allotments** (347 Windmill Lane, S5 6FA).

Providing a safe, inclusive, women only gardening space - children are welcome. It costs £1 to attend and all tools & refreshments are provided. An opportunity to learn new skills and experience the joy of growing your fruit, vegetables and flowers. Any queries to [hope.allotments@gmail.com](mailto:hope.allotments@gmail.com)

### Sheffield Local Plan exhibition 12th to 26th March

To make sure the city develops in a way that works for everyone, we are creating a new Local Plan. This is a long term blueprint that guides where new homes, jobs, transport links, and community facilities should go between now and 2039. The exhibition will show how the Plan aims

to guide new homes, support jobs and investment, and help Sheffield grow in a well planned and sustainable way. You can visit the exhibition at:

- The Moor Market, Sheffield, S1 4PF
- Crystal Peaks Shopping Centre, Sheffield, S20 7PJ
- Thorncliffe Leisure Centre, Sheffield, S35 3HY

Click here for [full details about the Plan.](#)

### Sheffield District MWiB Programme

- **28 March** Afternoon tea and stalls

Venue: Bents Green Methodist Church at 2pm

- **10 - 12 April** Swanwick weekend

Keynote speaker: Caroline Godfrey. For full details please click here.

<https://mwib.org.uk/index.php/news-events/>

### Christian Aid Changemakers Conference

**14 March 2026, 10am - 1pm** at St Gabriel's Church (Dobbin Hill, S11 7JB)

The Sheffield CA Committee warmly invite you to the Watch Party of the annual Changemakers conference to help you and your church get ready for Christian Aid Week. Refreshments, including a light lunch, will be provided. RSVP: Alison Trezise [jandatrezise@virginmedia.com](mailto:jandatrezise@virginmedia.com)

### Sheffield Half Marathon 29 March

Please find details below of the marathon and road closures. Sheffield Half Marathon starts at 9.30am and last runner expected to finish at 13:20pm.

- Click here for the details of the route - [Sheffield Half Marathon Route](#)
- For more information on the road closures - [interactive road closure map](#)

If you need any access arrangements please e-mail [eventsteam@runforall.com](mailto:eventsteam@runforall.com) before **Monday 16th March** to ensure we can facilitate these requirements.