

Sheffield Circuit Newsletter

8 April 2026

Please note we will be circulating the newsletter weekly, on a trial basis for 3 months. Let us know your thoughts.

Please note the next newsletter will be published on 15 April. Information for the newsletter should arrive before 12noon on the day.

Presidential Visit

The President of the Methodist Conference Revd. Richard Andrew visited the district recently (28 and 29 March) and explored many churches and projects. From large church renovations and birthday celebrations to heavy metal worship and feeding the homeless. Sheffield District has many stories to tell.

On Saturday Revd. Andrew planted a commemorative tree outside The Christian Centre in Stocksbridge to mark the completion of over half a million pounds of investment to transform the centre into a vibrant and essential hub for the local community. Please read the full article here on the [District website](#).

Happy Easter from Killamarsh

*After the 40 days of lent, today we celebrated the Good News of Christ's resurrection. **There are some pictures of our Good Friday shared remembrance service in the garden, replaced today by the joyous flowered cross, and our Easter garden flowers.***

Thanks to everyone who organised, took part and joined us for either Hot Cross buns (Friday) or Easter Sunday breakfast. Please see the beautiful pictures [on their website](#).

Methodist City Centre Network Sheffield Gathering

MCCN is visiting Sheffield on **Monday 20th April**. We will gather from 10.30a.m. onwards, starting with devotions at 11a.m., and finishing by 3.30p.m. Hope you are able to join us!

The day is a chance to spend time together in prayer and fellowship; learning and being inspired by our colleagues in Sheffield. We will spend some time in the morning hearing the local story, and a walk for prayers in Paradise Square where John Wesley preached.

In the afternoon our keynote speaker will be the **Revd Dr Inderjit Bhogal OBE** a past President of the Conference and founder of the City of Sanctuary movement in the UK. The title of his talk is "Hospitality and Welcome for all". How can we become a church of sanctuary? Click [here to book your place](#).

Killamarsh Open Day 6 June

As part of our 150th anniversary at Killamarsh - theme "Rooted, Relevant, Reimagined" we are going to dream about how to "be church" for the future - so we held a Breakfast church service looking at our current context. We certainly are no longer the pit village of 150 years ago. We hope

to expand our visioning at our **Open Day on 6th June**, inviting more ideas from the wider community.

BBC Songs of Praise, Sunday 12 April

Revd Dr Inderjit Bhogal talks on the theme of '[Challenging hostility with hospitality](#)' in relation to his work on the Church of Sanctuary programme and why marking Sanctuary Sunday is important.

Action for Hope

A reminder of the Net Zero (New Year) resolutions from The Methodist Church.

What if in 2026, we all focused on being a little bit better for the environment? Small changes add up when we all participate.

Rethink your food choices Food production accounts for a significant portion of global emissions. You don't need to go fully vegetarian, but try incorporating more plant-based meals into your week.

Reduce energy consumption at home Simple habits like switching to LED bulbs, unplugging devices when not in use and adjusting your thermostat by just a couple of degrees can significantly cut your energy use.

Rethink your transportation Could you walk, cycle, or take public transport for some of your regular journeys? Even carpooling when possible reduces emissions per person.

Embrace mindful consumption Before buying something new, ask yourself if you really need it. Could you borrow, rent, or buy second-hand instead?

Reduce water waste Shorter showers, fixing leaky taps and turning off the water while brushing your teeth are simple changes that conserve water.

To read the full [article please click here](#).

Prayer from Revd Romeo Pedro

You model what it means to be in community, Three-in-One God.
Help me to remember that I am not an island - that I need others.
When I have to make decisions, help me to listen to advise.
Enable me to always collaborate with others in everything you call us to do.
Amen.

[@romeoregardopedro](#)

Church Events & Information

Sponsored Hymn Sing - Saturday 16 May, 10am - 4pm

Hosted by Victoria Stafford Road with a bring and share buffet

Come and praise the Lord in worship songs, choruses, hymns and spirituals. Let's make this a feast of divine music, supporting the Methodist charity [All We Can](#).

All We Can is an international development and relief organisation, working to see every person's potential fulfilled. Focused on serving the world's most marginalised communities, All We Can is rooted in the Christian faith.

Digital Transformation Programme

One of the first things the Digital Transformation Programme set out to do was to understand where we are now. If we are going to improve the Church's digital tools and presence over the next two years, we need to be honest about the starting point – otherwise we have no way of knowing whether we have made a difference. Read about the latest updates from the [Digital Transformation Programme](#) taking place across the Methodist Church.

Office workers' gathering

Thursday 30 April from 9am

The next Gathering for all those involved in church administration will be held at St Thomas Crookes. This is a great time to meet up with others in similar roles, to share experiences and good practice and to offer support and encouragement. It is organised by the UCAN (UK Church Administrators Network) but is open to all. To help with the catering, we do ask you book in so we know how many to expect: Book here sheffieldmethodist.us18.list-manage.com/track/click?u=9f93955d2f15b52ed3b729445&id=1b7252a186&e=88a3dfbc5f
Do pass this invite on to anyone you think might benefit.

Children and Youth Events

District Youth Activity Day (March)

Young people, aged 8-18, and their leaders joined us from all over Sheffield District for a day of worship, learning and fun activities.

This year's theme followed the presidential theme for the year, "Our Story, Our Song", so young people spent the morning in workshops exploring and retelling some life stories from the Bible (including Mary & Martha, David, Paul, the woman at the well), and thinking about their own faith stories. The afternoon was then dedicated to outdoor activities including climbing, abseiling, archery, axe-throwing, pedal-karting, obstacle courses and zip-lining to name a few. The clear blue skies that emerged at lunchtime were certainly an answer to prayer!

It has been great to see the Youth Activity Day grow year on year, and this time we had about 80 young people and 40 leaders, representing 6 out of the 7 circuits in the District – we're aiming for all 7 next year!

A huge thank you to all of the leaders and parents who gave their time to accompany their young people, enabling the whole day to happen. The next Circuit youth event in the calendar is 3Generate (2nd – 4th October) so please do get in touch if you are interested in finding out more.

Training

Faith Rooted Community Organising

2 - 4 June at Ciff College

Faith-rooted Community Organising (FRCO) is a way of working, informed and guided by our faith, that focuses on building relationships, and gathering people together, to use their collective power to act for justice, change and transformation.

FRCO is not a new approach for Methodism, but does involve making a decision to do things differently. Through FRCO, we are rediscovering many of the ways in which early Methodism grew, flourished and transformed lives. [Book here.](#)

Funding

New Action for Hope grants

The District is pleased to announce that they have been awarded Connexional funding, which enables us to make grants of up to **£10,000 for measures to help Bronze or Silver Eco Churches** make further improvements to the carbon footprint of their premises. Further details about these grants, subsidized energy efficiency surveys and our new district environmental policy are on the [district website](#).

Building and Capital Funding

*National Churches Trust Deadline: 7 July - Up to £50,000 for [urgent repairs, kitchens, toilets and accessibility](#).

Young People & Community Projects

*South Yorkshire's Community Foundation Deadline: 24 April - Up to £123,353 over 3 years for [youth-focused projects](#).

*Youth Music Deadline: 10 April - Up to £30,000 for inclusive music projects (under 25s)

*7Stars Foundation Opens 12 April - Up to £5,000 for [vulnerable young people](#).

Smaller / Activity Funding

*Parkinson's UK - Up to £3,000 for [physical activity programmes](#).

*The Arts Society - Up to £3,000 for [arts and heritage](#).

Briefing on the new Places of Worship Renewal Fund - Save The Date

A new grant scheme is being launched in April, called the Places of Worship Renewal Fund. It is funded by the government.

This will provide capital funding for listed places of worship in England (only). It will be administered by Historic England. It will distribute 23m per financial year, for four years.

HRBA are pleased to announce that Deborah Williams, Regional Director, Midlands at Historic England, will be talking by Zoom about the new Fund.

Date: Wednesday, 29th April 2026, at 2pm on Zoom (online)

More information about the event will be shared in due course but for now please save the date.

Justice and Peace

Orgreave Inquiry Formally Launches

The Inquiry, announced by the UK Government in July 2025, will investigate events before, during and after Monday 18 June 1984, a pivotal moment in the 1984–85 miners' strike. It has full statutory powers to compel witnesses and require the disclosure of evidence and is expected to report by spring 2028.

The Rt Revd Dr Pete Wilcox, Bishop of Sheffield, will chair the Inquiry, supported by a four-person panel. The Inquiry will operate entirely independent of government and any other public body.

[Read more 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

Trussell's Walking Humbly 7 May 9-10.30am

Is your church a place where people facing hunger and hardship can belong fully? Join the launch of [Trussell's Walking Humbly resources online on 7 May](#). The resources include a booklet for church leaders and a series of Bible Studies to help explore how churches can be communities where all are welcomed and all voices are heard.

If you are unable to attend the webinar but would like resources, please let us know at churches@trussell.org.uk.

Dementia UK

Inviting people who knit, crochet, or sew to create twiddle muffs to support those living with dementia. These soft hand muffs include securely attached tactile items like buttons, ribbons, and zips to provide comfort and reduce anxiety. Items can be collected from Rotherham or Sheffield, or dropped off at Dovercourt Surgery, S2 5FX. Please contact hannah.moore9@nhs.net.

South Yorkshire Chaplaincy & Listening Service - Children's Listening Training programme

We are pleased to share details of our 2026 Children's Listening Training sessions, designed to equip adults with the skills to listen to children effectively and supportively in a range of settings including in families, schools, youth organisations and churches. Our in-house programme is delivered in bite size chunks, giving you manageable options for attending, including the option of spreading attendance across future programmes. We have a special introductory offer of 500 per person, for all 6 days, if booked together. [Children's Listening Training leaflet](#).

Easy Fundraising

Please sign up and join today and you can raise free donations for Sheffield Methodist Circuit every time you shop online. All the big names (ebay, John Lewis, Argos etc) are ready to make a free donation at no extra cost to you. Please click [here to Sign Up](#).

Sheffield Plan - Main Modifications

Sheffield is growing and changing. To make sure the city develops in a way that works for everyone, we are creating [a new Local Plan – the Sheffield Plan](#).

This is a long-term blueprint for the future of our city. It guides where new homes, jobs, transport links, and community facilities should go between now and 2039. The Inspectors are now proposing changes (known as 'Main Modifications') to the Plan. We are now seeking your views on these Main Modifications. **A six week consultation is being carried out, running from Monday 2 March, until 5pm on Tuesday 14 April.**