

Sheffield Circuit Newsletter

29 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 6 May. Information for the newsletter should arrive before 12noon on the day.

The Art of Welcome: A Creative Project Bringing Communities Together

Across the district, **a creative new initiative is taking shape — one that's all about opening doors, sparking creativity and celebrating the warmth of community.**

The Art of Welcome invites people of every age and background to explore what welcome, belonging and inclusion look like through art. Whether it's a painting, a photograph, a textile piece, a digital design or a drama performance, each contribution answers a simple but powerful question: **What does welcome mean to you?**

At its core, the project is about showing hospitality in a visual and heartfelt way. Churches often describe themselves as open, friendly spaces, but this project helps bring that message to life. District grants of £500 are available to help support this work. Click here to [find out more](#).

Walking the Walk

Keen walkers are being sought to test parts of a new pilgrimage route designed by a past Methodist President and launched in honour of a pioneering abolitionist. 80-mile Equiano Way is due to open next March and runs from Sheffield to Hull via the Epworth Old Rectory. The Revd Dr Inderjit Bhogal, former president of the Methodist Conference, and the manager of Epworth Old Rectory, Sarah Maltby, are asking walkers to scope sections of the route ahead of its opening. The trail currently passes through different communities, urban landscapes and follows the Humber estuary.

"This pilgrimage is an invitation to let Equiano tell you his story as you walk and learn and reflect, and to connect with other remarkable stories held in the route, between Sheffield and Hull, via Epworth.

"The route is ready and will be launched in 2027.

"We are now looking for keen walkers who are prepared to tread part of the route to check it out and help write it up for others". Read the [full story here](#).

New Church Gathering - Saturday 13 June

For anyone who is involved in leading (in any capacity), or preparing to lead, a new Christian community. An opportunity to spend quality time with the growing network of fellow pioneers following similar callings in other places across or affiliated to Sheffield Methodist District. Our hosts will be Manor Church & Community Project, a Christian charity rooted in Sheffield's

Manor Estate. Our morning will be led by Mark North, our Faith Rooted Community Organising Lead, and will focus on the interaction between community organising and pioneering. Reserve [your space and free lunch here](#).

Celebrating the life of John Wills

Please find below the details of the funeral of John Wills, husband of Revd Liz Wills. To be held on **Wednesday 6 May at 12.15pm, at Victoria Methodist Church** (Stafford Road, Sheffield S2 2SE). Please [click here for full details](#). Followed by refreshments at St Peters, Ellesmere (Lyons Street, S4 7EP).

Prayers please

Some of you may remember the Revd James Tebbutt, who married Revd Nicola Price – both served in the Sheffield Circuits before they merged into one, James in the West and Nicola in Ecclesall. James is the District Chair of the North West District, and we have just learned that he had a heart attack on Easter Day. He is now recovering at home, and I know you will hold James, Nicola and Eleanor in your prayers.

The Spring District Gathering, recently held at Greenhill Methodist church, was recorded and you can watch [it back here](#) (YouTube).

The Methodist Church in Sheffield: Circuit Meeting News

Our March Circuit Meeting took place on 26 March 2026 at Mount Tabor. Please see the [notes](#) to find out what's happening in your Circuit. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 22 June 2026.

A prayer for the world and the Church

God, who changes not, we trust in you for our todays and tomorrows. We pray for those with responsibility for making key decisions that might change the direction of world or local events. We pray for those affected by the decisions of others, but who feel powerless in the face of forces of change. We commend to you the decisions that have to be made in your Church, and those charged with making them. Take our gifts and talents, voices and musical worship, Lord, and use them we pray in the service of your kingdom.

Amen.

John Morton, supernumerary presbyter, Kendal Circuit

Good News Story

Food, Faith and Fellowship

Parson Cross, Sheffield: 18 languages uniting through food

Parson Cross Initiative (PXI) is a charity that runs from Mount Tabor Methodist Church in Sheffield. It hosts a wide range of activities throughout the week and across the year.

Pioneer minister Nick Waterfield says: "We've always seen food, faith and fellowship as sitting alongside each other, and around the table.

"From our lunchtime soups and sandwiches, to cooking on the community allotment, or community celebrations we share together, food is important. At its heart we see sharing food being about relationships and as a key to building social justice.

"Before the Covid pandemic we ran an independent food bank which helped a regular 100 households each week, during the pandemic we made a decision as Trustees to "come back different" and we did. We had worked alongside a Trussel foodbank during Covid and we left the foodbank business to them afterwards, turning instead to a more community pantry model of offering food for people, offering more agency and involvement from those accessing it.

To read the [full story click here](#) (Church Action on Poverty).

Church Events & Information

Repair Cafe at St Andrew's Psalter Lane Saturday 9th May, 10.00 am 2.00 pm

The churches Church Eco Group are holding a Repair Cafe on Saturday 9th May. Volunteer repair people will be on hand to make small repairs and teach people how they can do these themselves, with the aim of reducing waste by re-using and recycling items that would otherwise be thrown away. Come along with your wonky stuff and get it fixed! We will be offering repairs of wooden, metal and electrical items, including PAT testing, and sewing repairs.

We'll also be serving hot and cold drinks, light lunches, and lots and lots of cake; all repairs are free but any donations, and profits from the refreshments, will be sent to Christian Aid Week!

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. **We at Victoria will depend on singers from other churches joining with us to make the day a success.** 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.

Justice and Peace

Middle East Justice Appeal

Right now, people are living through unimaginable suffering and terror. We're relaunching the Middle East Justice Appeal with [United Reformed Church](#) and [The Methodist Church](#) to raise money for partners who are delivering life-transforming, essential work.

See our appeal here: allwecan.org.uk/appeals/middleeast

UK urged to continue its climate leadership

Faith leaders have called on the UK government to step up international efforts to encourage the phasing out of fossil fuels. Senior representatives of the Methodist Church, the Baptist Union and the United Reformed Church have co-signed a letter asking Ed Miliband, as Secretary of State for Energy and Net Zero, to personally attend the [First Conference on Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels](#) later this month. The international summit is being co-hosted by Colombia and the Netherlands in Santa Marta, Colombia. This letter argues that the presence of the Secretary of State would convey a clear message of support from the UK for this new multilateral movement, and aid vital work to agree a detailed roadmap for a transition away from fossil fuels that is fast, fair, and funded.

Click here to read the [full article on the JPIT site](#).

Children and Youth Events

Sheffield Diocese - Bright Lights, Saturday 9 May

A day of fun and worship for church-based groups with children aged 5-10 years.

To [book click here!](#)

Volunteering

Peak Wesley Way at Cliff Festival

Cliff Festival will, as usual, be happening the 22 - 25 May. Peak Wesley Way will be part of the Festival on Monday 25 May. We will be hosting an information stall in the festival market place and will be leading a two hour mini-pilgrimage along Baslow Edge to Baslow chapel, returning along the valley.

We would very much appreciate a few volunteers to join us in running the stall, walking the pilgrimage, or putting the kettle on in Baslow.

Email info@peakwesleyway.com or phone Alex on 07864 351 609 for more information or offers of support.

Training

For church administrators/ office workers

Topic: How to (Almost) Do Yourself Out of a Job

Ever feel like everything relies on you? Our next TAPAS Training session for Administrator level members will explore ways to make your role more efficient and streamlined, how to empower others to get things done and reduce the pressure of being the only person who knows how everything works. Walk away with practical ideas to keep things running smoothly, even when you're not around. Click [here to book](#).

Safeguarding

Creating a safeguarding foundation to have courageous conversations

As explained in last week's safeguarding article, these updates are intended to refresh our learning on how to respond safely and appropriately when someone makes a disclosure of abuse. The aim is to strengthen our safeguarding foundations as we continue to welcome and engage with others.

Last week we revisited the Samaritans' SHUSH listening tips. This week, I would like to remind you of Methodist expectations regarding the written recording of safeguarding disclosures. Guidance from the Foundation Safeguarding Module states that if you have a safeguarding concern, it is important to make a record of what you have seen, heard, or been told as soon as possible. This record may be written or made as a voice note using a smartphone or other electronic device.

Records should be clear and reflect accurately what was disclosed, using the person's own words where possible. If you cannot remember everything, do not worry—record what you can recall. It is not your responsibility to investigate the concern; this must be left to safeguarding officers.

Where possible, records should include the following six key points:

1. How you became aware of the concern
2. What happened, including as much detail as possible
3. Who was involved, including names if known
4. When and where the incident occurred
5. Who the concern has been shared with
6. The date and your signature

Once a record has been made—or while you are making it—the information should be passed on appropriately. This next step will be the focus of the article coming next week.

Written for the District Newsletter, by Alison Hill, Regional Officer for Safeguarding

Funding

Community Impact Grants

[Benefact Trust's Community Impact Grant](#) programme supports projects that will make a positive and transformative impact on lives and communities. The programme has four key objectives:

- Growing congregations and Christian communities (e.g. faith development, engaging young people, church planting and construction of new chapels for hospices).
- Addressing social challenges facing communities (projects addressing a broad range of social issues, e.g. homelessness, food poverty and mental health).
- Enabling wider community use of church buildings (projects resulting in a clear increase in use of church buildings by the wider community, e.g. new or expanded facilities for use by new groups or for new services). Requests for essential building improvements should come through our Building Improvement Grants programme.
- Schools and educational institutions. (new spaces or facilities to improve collective worship or spiritual reflection, e.g. chapels and outdoor worship spaces).

Through this programme, we fund new or expanded work only and we make contributions to capital and revenue projects. Full details on the objectives and other criteria can be found in the Community Impact Grant programme guidance below, which all applicants are advised to read.

Building and Capital Funding

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

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](#).

Other Information and News

Christian Aid week 10th to 17th May

The theme for this year is around supporting mothers in Nairobi, Kenya, who are facing devastating urban poverty and a daily struggle to feed their children. By raising funds this May we can help mothers like Fridah Moraa and Belinda Kasudi, who live in crowded informal settlements, protect their children from hunger and grow a more hopeful future.

There are some excellent resources to download, including a full order of service and power point presentation for both an all-age worship service and a 'regular' worship service, as well as a film, prayer sheet, a daily devotional and fundraising packs for running a Big Brekkie event and/or a Quiz night.

Here is a link to the resources on the website <https://caw.christianaid.org.uk/uk/resource>

Urban Theology Unit - Kindom Faith-Sharing

How can we encourage others to engage with and follow the teachings of the radical Jesus in a way that draws people in by example? UTU brought together a wide variety of urban mission activists – lay and clergy from five denominations in 2022 and developed a [Kindom Evangelism Pack](#) of thinking and guidance on this.

A bi-monthly Seminar on-line, held on the fourth Tuesday of April, June, September and November 2026 at 10.30am for about an hour, to explore the ideas and challenges outlined in the Kindom Evangelism Pack. (28 April, 23 June, 22 September and 24 Nov)

A contributor to the Pack will start the discussion from the perspective of their article, or how they see things now, which will then develop according to the interests of those attending. Some basic knowledge of theology and understanding of Christian mission and/or evangelisation will be helpful. Open to all. £10 per session or £40 for the year. Apply to office@utusheffield.org.uk to register for Zoom link

Weston Park Cancer Charity - Time for Tea

The [Time for Tea campaign](#) is all about bringing people together over tea, sweet treats, and good conversation while raising vital funds to support people living with cancer. We'd love for churches within the Methodist Circuit to get involved if possible! Here are a few fun and simple ways you could take part:

- Create a special purple-themed dessert / bake for May, with a donation from each sale going to the charity
- Host a Time For Tea day, encouraging the community to enjoy a coffee and cake
- Run a mini bake-off for your best purple creation
- Share your creations on social media to help spread the word and inspire others

We'll support you with promotional materials, and plenty of encouragement along the way, we have some [resources available to print here](#).

Every pound raised helps fund life-saving treatment, research, and support services for patients and families across our region. **This is a great opportunity to engage the community whilst making a difference, locally. If you are interested, please contact hannahwilliams@wpcancercharity.org.uk**

Walking the Peak Wesley Way to raise funds for Africa's Gift

Thursday May 14 - Sunday May 17 2026

This is a pilgrimage led by Faye Ramsey Smith (Hope Walking) and Ken Dunn (Africa's Gift) to raise funds for Eco Cookbags. Details here: <https://hopewalking.co.uk/peak-wesley-way-charity-challenge>.