

Sheffield Circuit Newsletter

6 May 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 20 May (due to holidays). 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](#).

Love Your Burial Ground Week with Churches Count on Nature

Registrations are now open for Love Your Burial Ground Week with Churches Count on Nature. The annual initiative is running from Saturday 6th to Sunday 14th June, celebrating and monitoring the wildlife found in church land and cemeteries across the UK. You can [register your event here](#) (by 23 May) or, if you don't have any land but want to join in, find events local to you here. Caring for God's Acre have [event resources](#), including a [starter guide](#).

Lentil Moussaka - Ingredients (for 4 people)

- 1 onion, finely chopped
- 1 clove of garlic (optional)
- 150g dry lentils
- 1 tin of chopped tomatoes
- 200ml water
- 1 vegetable stock cube oregano
- 1 aubergine, cut into slices
- Fresh spinach (optional)
- A knob of butter
- 1tbsp of flour
- 200ml milk (any)
- 150g cheese (cheddar or halloumi)
- Salt, pepper, nutmeg, paprika powder

Fry the onion and garlic (if using) in one tbsp of oil for a few minutes, stir in the tomatoes, water, stock cube and oregano. Mix well. Add salt and pepper. Then add the lentils and stir. Leave to simmer for 20 minutes, stirring occasionally, so that nothing sticks to the bottom of the pan.

- Cut the aubergine into slices and dry fry them in a pan from both sides until lightly browned.
- In an oven dish, layer the aubergine and tomato-lentil mixture (and the spinach leaves if using), leave to one side.

Preheat the oven to 180-200C.

- Melt the butter in a saucepan, add the flour and stir to make a roux. Add the milk and continue to stir until it thickens slightly. Add salt, pepper and nutmeg as you like.
- Add half the cheddar (if using) to the sauce until melted.
- Pour over the mixture in the oven dish.
- Sprinkle the remaining cheddar on top or lay halloumi slices on the top.
- Sprinkle paprika powder over the cheese and bake in the oven for 20 minutes or until the cheese has melted.

Serve with salad.

This is a great dish for all ages, easy to make and eat. You can easily make a big batch and freeze in portions as needed. And it's delicious!

District Newsletter - We have started to distribute the District Newsletter - Courageous Conversations: Listening to and working with communities, across churches. Please pick your copy up from your local church.

District Podcast – Faith, Hope and The Journey – Mark North

In this episode of Faith, Hope and The Journey we chat with Mark North, who is the Faith Rooted Community Organising Lead in the District. This is brand new role to the Methodist Church and is about how we engage with each other in the church and those within our communities. Mark talks about this new role, share's his faith journey and openly chats about his previous roles, from driving a train to setting up and running Freedom – a charity in Bolsover supporting people in poverty.

It's available to stream on our website or from wherever you usually get your podcasts.

District website: <https://www.sheffieldmethodist.org/podcast.html>

Microsoft Publisher is being retired

Microsoft is retiring Publisher in October 2026. If your church or circuit uses it to produce orders of service, newsletters, posters or flyers, you will need something else in place before then. We have heard this come up in several conversations with circuit administrators and operations officers recently, so we wanted [to share what we think are the](#) best alternatives – both of which are free for registered charities.

Keep yourself and your money safe

A reminder (from Barnsley Circuit news) that there are scammers about! Be aware that no-one – whether staff, employee or lay member – would ever contact you by email asking for assistance in purchasing 'gifts', whatever excuse is being offered.

Excuses known to be used by scammers masquerading as a minister or member of staff might be: i) I am too busy, ii) about to go into a meeting, ii) do not have internet access at present, iv) have lost my voice (hence the request by email rather than phone) – these to

name just a few.

Such requests (however plausible they might seem) are SCAMS trying to trick you into buying and forwarding gift cards or other merchandise. Please delete such emails immediately without responding.

If you are in doubt about any contact made, please contact the person directly rather than by replying to the email as they will not receive it but the scammers will – and they can be very clever at convincing you to comply to their request/instruction, all the while pretending to be someone you trust.

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 that we might embody God's grace

Jesus, our way and our life,
your love has broken every barrier down,
and by your death and glorious resurrection,
you unite all who put their faith in you.
In this world of conflict and disunity
help us to embody your grace:
to be good neighbours,
to be friends to all,
to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world.
Open our hearts to claim and cherish
our shared calling to be your disciples,
sharing our life and faith across traditions
with grace and joy.
Unite our prayer with yours,
that in you your children may be one,
that the world may believe.
In your Holy Spirit we pray. Amen.

Steven Cooper, Ecumenical Officer, Connexional Team

[Methodist Church Prayer Hub](#)

Church Events & Information

Metal Methodist service, Saturday 16 May 2026 at St Paul's Methodist Church in Dronfield

The service starts at 3pm and you can expect an inclusive welcome and worship with an alternative vibe. Please contact Kate the Metal Methodist Development Worker on katemetalmethodist@outlook.com for more information or reach them via [Facebook](#).

Cliff Festival 22 - 25 May - Our Story Our Song

The full [Cliff Festival programme](#) is now available.

MHA (Methodist Homes) Sunday 2026

Bring your church or faith group together to support older people. MHA Sunday is an opportunity for Methodist churches to reflect on later life, celebrate the contribution of older people, and support MHA's work through worship, prayer and, where possible, a charitable gift.

This year's theme is The Second Cup, which explores loneliness as a matter of justice. It draws on the parable of the wedding banquet in Matthew 22, where those on the margins are gathered in. The second cup is the one you share, the cup that makes room for someone else at the table.

You can find more about the theme and access supporting resources for this year's MHA Sunday here: <https://mha.org.uk/sunday>

- Suitable for Local Arrangements - The resources are designed to be easy for local preachers and worship leaders to use, and the theme works well as a circuit-wide focus.
- Flexible timing - Many churches will hold MHA Sunday on 14 June 2026, but you are very welcome to choose a date that best suits your circuit.
- Speakers available - If you would like an MHA speaker to support your service, please contact us at chaplaincy@mha.org.uk.

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](#).

Reminder - Please send a list of hymns chosen on sponsor forms to Rev Michael Brown at mb4511933989@btinternet.com **on or before Sunday evening 10th May.**

Monies collected from the sponsorship for All We Can should be sent to the Circuit Treasurer Mr Matt Irons.

Justice and Peace

100th anniversary Beckly Lecture, 29 June 6.45pm

Another exciting event coming up in June is the annual [Beckly Lecture](#), part of the Methodist Conference since 1926. This year's event is entitled, 'Together towards life in a world of division'. In a world where political leaders invoke the language of civilisation to justify exclusion, where creation care is dismissed as a cult and the stranger is feared, what does faithful Christian mission look like? And what does it demand of us? The talk will be given by Roland Fernandes from United Methodist Church. Register to attend [here](#).

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

Methodist Women in Britain

Are you ready to lead with passion, justice, and joy?

Methodist Women in Britain (MWiB) is looking for a visionary leader to join our team.

The Journey: Your 4-Year Impact

- Year 1 (Incoming Vice-Chair): Partner with the Chair, learn the ropes, and champion our mission-

focused projects.

- Years 2 & 3 (Chair): Become the "heart" of our leadership. Shape strategy, lead the Board, and act as our public face across the UK and the global Methodist family.
- Year 4 (Outgoing Vice-Chair): Use your wisdom to mentor the next generation

What You'll Bring

- A Collaborative Spirit
- Leadership Experience
- Global Vision
- A Good Sense of Humour

For more information please contact governance.mwib@gmail.com using the subject "Recruitment – Chair/Vice Chair". The application closing date is 05 June. [Full details are available](#) on the MWiB site

Training

Online Adult Mental Health First Aid

16 June and 18 June (4 sessions)

Teaches people how to spot the signs and symptoms of mental ill health and provide help on a first aid basis. [For further details or to book click here.](#)

Safeguarding

Creating a safeguarding foundation to have courageous conversations

This week (Part 3), the focus is on referring concerns appropriately.

Once a record has been made—or as you are making it—you must pass the information on in the appropriate way. It is important to know who, within your church or circuit, safeguarding concerns should be shared with. This is usually the church or circuit safeguarding officer, the minister, or the leader of the group you are working with.

When you completed the Foundation Safeguarding Module, you should have received a trifold Safeguarding Quick Reference Guide. This includes guidance on what to do if you have a concern, as well as space to record relevant contact details. If you do not have a copy, please ask your church or circuit safeguarding officer, who will be able to source one for you.

If someone is at immediate risk of harm, your first action must be to contact the emergency and/or statutory services, and then inform your safeguarding officer as soon as possible. This can understandably feel daunting, but support is always available.

If there is no immediate risk, record your concerns and pass them on within 24 hours to the appropriate person or people. This may include the minister, church or circuit safeguarding officer, or the Regional Officer for Safeguarding.

Recording and referring concerns is a vital part of a strong safeguarding culture. While these terms can feel intimidating, they simply mean noting what you have seen or heard, discussing it if appropriate with others, and passing the information to the right person. If you are ever unsure, please contact me for advice.

Alison Hill, Regional Officer for Safeguarding

Funding

TMCP Discretionary Funding

The current grants available, focus on:

- Property projects
- Pastoral support
- Staffing support
- Education and training

The next meeting for consideration of applications is on the 9th of July 2026. Applications should be submitted by the 11th of June 2026 to give us time to process the request and circulate papers to the committee. [Click here for all the details.](#)

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.

Other Information and News

Thresholds Retreat Saturday 13th & Sunday 14th June

A weekend retreat in which we can slow down, be present and connect with ourselves, each other, nature and the Divine.

Each morning and afternoon we will playfully contemplate a story which has been told in the sand using objects. After the group work there will be time to respond individually, e.g. by journalling, playing with objects, creating with art materials, walking or simply sitting.

Royal Voluntary Service - Virtual Village Hall

The [Virtual Village Hall](#) is a free online activity hub and community, designed by [Royal Voluntary Service](#) to help people stay mentally and physically active, socially connected and having fun. It supports people to better manage their health, including long-term health conditions, and healthy ageing. No sign-in or subscription required.

There are live activity sessions every weekday and a library of over 3,000 sessions to view on demand, all led by expert tutors and presenters.

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>

Sheffield District MWiB Programme

20 May - Quiet Day

Venue: Green Moor Methodist 10am for 10.30am. Led by Deacon Annabel Terry.

A space to retreat from everyday life, prayer stations to engage with, time to walk and explore the village. Time to talk to others and share life. You don't need to have been to a MWiB event before, we are here for all women in the Methodist Church.

Bring your own lunch and drinks provided.

July - District day

Venue: Hoyland and Birdwell Methodist church at 10.30m for 11am.

Leader: Co-Chair of MWiB, Olive Rizvidzo. Bring your own lunch and drinks provided.