

Sheffield Circuit Newsletter

27 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 3 June. Information for the newsletter should arrive before 12noon on the day.

Solar Eclipse

There will be a solar eclipse across the UK on Wednesday 12 August, the last before 2090. Methodist churches are encouraged to use this as an opportunity to host eclipse parties – opportunities to invite local communities to come together for a once in a lifetime shared meaningful experience, during which we can gently and appropriately share something of the good news of Jesus. **Plus the district is offering grants to churches to help fund the parties.**

<https://www.sheffieldmethodist.org/.../eclipse-2026.html>

The Wildlife Trusts

Take a breath and notice nature this June

June feels different. The light lingers. Bees buzz around gardens. Swifts soar overhead. Wildflowers push through cracks in the pavement. And we're inviting you to notice it all!

30 Days Wild is the UK's biggest nature challenge. This June, choose one wild thing a day (or a few each week) - from giving nature a helping hand to simply noticing the wild on your doorstep. From planting wildflowers for bees, to listening to bird song or letting a corner of your garden grow a little wilder, there's endless ways to spend your wild month.

[Sign up today to](#) receive your free pack in the post and by email.

Eco Tips Calendar 2026

Take a look at the [A Rocha Eco tips calendar for 2026](#) - it offers you and your church ideas through the year. Ideas include:

- ***June** - Big Green Walk
- ***July** - Plastic Free July
- ***August** - Look after wildlife in the heat etc

Contact Details

*Have you recently updated your telephone number or email address and not informed Circuit yet?
Do we have the correct contact details for you?*

Please [do let us know](#) your correct contact details, to ensure we can stay in contact with you.

Planning free websites for local churches

We are currently planning to offer all local churches a free basic website, to be hosted on www.methodist.org.uk, and linked from the [Church Finder](#) tool.

We want to make sure that these microsites are easy for local churches to maintain, are invitational and have all the information visitors need.

Could you help us in the design of these microsites? We are looking for volunteers to attend online focus groups to be run by our website developers in the next few weeks. If you are interested in attending, [please fill out the short form](#) below.

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.

Growing in Faith, Circuit Prayer

Every Wednesday 8pm

Please see the details of the [Prayer for May - June](#).

[A prayer that God may lead us in God's dance](#)

Author of life divine,
whose song unleashes beauty,
creating wonder and inspiring awe.
You call our voices out,
join them in a renewing melody which is older than time.
You lead us, then move us,
in a dance lost in wonder, love, and praise.
In such moments, our humanity reverberates with grace and we know ourselves beloved.

Amen.

Kerry Tankard, Chair, Yorkshire West District

Justice and Peace

Tearfund - Join us in prayer through global crises

Every day, we're bombarded by news of catastrophe and suffering around the world. From war to rising global prices, it's noisy out there.

But amidst the thud of another explosion, the rumble of another natural disaster, and the cries of

families, widows, and orphans, God hears every whispered prayer.

God hears you. What will you say to him?

You and your congregation can join thousands of others in prayer over the escalating disasters sweeping across our world. [Sign up to our One Voice in Prayer](#) emails.

Church Events & Information

Humanitarian aid collection for Ukraine

The 'Helping Our Ukrainian Friends' are a charity based in Dronfield who make regular trips to Ukraine to deliver humanitarian aid.

If you feel able to contribute, donations can be left at Woodseats Methodist Church, via the entrance at the top of the steps on Holmthirst Road. There is a box for donations in the entrance hall, unfortunately access is only possible if one of our user groups are using the hall (Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 10am to 11am, Thursday 2 to 4pm and Friday 9.30 to 11am, except Friday 29th May).

Items can also be left at the church entrance on Mitchell Road on Wednesday from 10 to 11.30am, when we also accept donations for the Grace Foodbank at Lowedges.

Children and Youth Events

Boys Brigade at Coal Aston Methodist Church

Last Saturday saw our Canoeing and Paddling Day at Rother Valley run by our Canoe club. Over 30 young people and some young Company Staff members took part. A great day was had although I'm told the water was cold.

Also our numbers in our Battalion have increased this year by nearly 10% allowing our Companies to "Advance Christ's Kingdom" amongst our male and female members.

We are also looking for leaders who are interested in running DEA expeditions, canoeing, archery and other outdoor activities.

We would also welcome people who have our Vision, Mission and Values to join - local Companies or start new Companies in and around Sheffield, Chesterfield, Rotherham N.E. Derbyshire and North Notts. Please contact our Secretary paul.sheard@sky.com

Training

These are a range of free webinars and in-person events hosted by the Charities Engagement Team available to faith charities.

To book click this link: [Charities Engagement Team Events Booking by Bookwhens](#)

Trustee Duties Wednesday 3 June 2026, 12:00pm to 1:00pm

For more information and to register to either watch live, or receive the recording of this webinar, please use this link: [Trustee Duties Webinar Booking by Bookwhen](#)

Taking Care of your Funds for Faith Charities Thursday 11 June 2026, 12:00pm to 1:00pm
For more information and to register to either watch live, or receive the recording of this webinar, please use this link: [FAITH: Taking Care of your Funds for Faith Charities Webinar Booking by Bookwhen](#).

Safeguarding

Circuit Safeguarding Update

We are in the process of simplifying the Pastoral Visitors Guidance for ministers and anyone who has a leadership role within the Methodist Church, along with the pastoral visitor's guidance leaflets. These should be ready to send out soon.

The Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) is a public body in England, Wales, and other UK jurisdictions that helps employers make safer recruitment decisions. I have recently sent out clarification regarding the different level of checks available and how to ensure the correct level of check is applied for. If you didn't receive the email or have any questions, please get in touch. For your information, the next safeguarding foundation training dates are, Tuesday 23 June at 2 pm, Millhouses MC and Monday 29 June at 2 pm, Christ Church Stocksbridge. Please let [me know if you would like to book a place](#).

Regional Officer for Safeguarding Update:

The [Safeguarding Training Webpages](#), on the Connexional website, have been updated and simplified.

Significant changes are:

1. The Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church now have a reciprocal agreement to recognise each other's core training modules, in addition to the long-standing agreement that we already have with the Church of England.
2. There is an updated list of what level of safeguarding training is needed for post holders. These details are now in a single table format to give greater clarity than the previous, separate lists.
3. The Foundation Module 2024 materials are available as online-only training.

Access is via a link sent to Circuit Safeguarding Officers in the Sheffield District, to enable them to keep track of those completing the online materials.

Funding

Launch of Places of Worship Renewal Fund

The Places of Worship Renewal Fund has now launched. You can find out about it [here](#). Additionally DCMS have issued a [press release](#).

We (HRBA) will now rearrange the delayed Zoom briefing on the new Fund. If you have any questions about the Fund which you are sure are not answered on the website, do let us know.

- Urgent fabric repairs
- Essential improvements: electrical upgrades, heating, toilets and step-free access
- In-year spend for four years, of £23m per year
- Listed places of worship in England

We would also like to draw your attention to the following points:

- The first deadline for an Expression of Interest is 14 June 2026. Full details of the information needed, according to the size of grant requested, are on the Historic England website.
- There will be future opportunities to apply, and the next one will be September

Freshgate Trust Foundation

Grants are available to charitable groups for projects in Sheffield, Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham that address the areas of education, recreation, heritage restoration, environment, music and the arts, welfare or health and social care. [Click here to apply.](#)

- Heritage, restoration and environment.
- Music and the arts
- Recreation (including holidays and sport).

Other Information and News

Methodist Homes MHA - *The Second Cup*

Around 1 million older people in the UK say they always or often feel lonely. For many, loneliness isn't occasional, it's constant.

Without someone to talk to, loneliness can quietly take hold, affecting physical health, mental wellbeing, and a person's sense of purpose.

To make a donation and watch the video [please click here.](#)

Whirlow where you are

Quiet Day @ St Peter's Ellesmere (S4 7EP)

13 June 2026, 10am-3:30pm

Free. No need to book, please contact the event leader [Judith Jessop](#) (minister in the Sheffield Methodist Circuit and trustee of Whirlow Spirituality Centre) for more information.

Sanctuary Sunday and Refugee Week 2026 15th – 21st Jun 2026

Challenging hostility with hospitality

Resources are available for [Sanctuary Sunday](#), which is marked at the end of Refugee Week.

Some actions to consider:

- Mark Sanctuary Sunday in prayer and worship on 21 June 2026.
- Arrange group Bible Study/Discussion using Hospitality and Sanctuary for All (see below).
- Explore what it means to be Church of Sanctuary, and make an application to be a [Church of Sanctuary](#).
- Share a message of solidarity and welcome for people seeking asylum – see the City of Sanctuary [Speak up for Sanctuary](#) resources.

Tideswell Peak Pilgrimage, in memory of Jo Cox MP

20 June 9.30am

20 June this year is the birthday weekend of Jo Cox MP who called for unity across our nation, and marks the tenth anniversary of her tragic murder.

First ever dog- friendly peak pooch pilgrimage from St John the Baptist, Tideswell around four dog-friendly churches in Tideswell Benefice - 6 mile/ 10km stile-free route.

This pilgrimage is free of charge to allow everyone who wishes to attend, and voluntary donations made on the day and will go to St John's and Care for the Family. Register your [interest here](#).

Invitation from Leprosy Mission - Book a Leprosy Sunday

Will you join us to bring Jesus ministry of healing and hope to children affected by leprosy today? Your church or group can stand with our teams across Africa and Asia to help find and cure leprosy quickly. You can restore children's mobility by providing specialist surgery. And you can open the doors to vocational training, empowering young people to build brighter futures. Futures filled with dignity, hope, and possibility.

To book a talk for your Leprosy Sunday service or a midweek meeting in 2026 contact Jake on 07540 085770.