

Sheffield Circuit Newsletter

8 July 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 July. Information for the newsletter should arrive before 12noon on the day.

A prayer for God to guide us

Loving God,

Fill us with your grace, so we can:

know the way and walk in it,

hear your word and respond to it,

see injustice and address it,

be attentive to pain and alleviate it,

seek transformation and bring it,

through your empowering Spirit. Amen.

Andrew Charlesworth, Chair, Wales Synod Cymru

[Methodist Church Prayer Hub](#)

Growing in Faith, Circuit Prayer

Every Wednesday 8pm

Zoom circuit prayer 94411865948 999757

Join us for Circuit Prayer - please see the [Circuit Prayer Plan](#) (8-29 July)

Sheffield Circuit Farewell Service

Sunday 19 July at 3pm, Handsworth Woodhouse

(S13 9BN)

Join us to say farewell to Revd Michelle Deans, Revd Jonathan Haigh, Revd Claude Kimpinde, Revd Ian Lucraft, Revd Tracey Morris, Revd Romeo Pedro and Deacon Annabel Terry.

Afternoon Tea on Woodhouse Cemetery – Saturday 19th June

(Please note this article refers to bereavement support)

You may be wondering who would come to an afternoon tea on the cemetery or even why there would be such a thing happening?

The majority of people whose funerals are conducted in the name of the Methodist Church in Sheffield are cremated, and often their ashes are scattered on the crematorium grounds rather than buried in a plot. Graveyards and cemeteries are fascinating– they speak of history, of people who (usually) lived locally, they tell us which names were popular in what years, and who was related to whom. Some gravestones are works of art, others functional.

Cemeteries are often peaceful places, inviting reflection, reminding us that life can be long or cut short, that others have gone before us.

People who visit the graves of loved-ones are usually open to share memories and stories about them, what they meant to them, how they died, how much they are missed... all those things that are important to say out loud in order to process and make sense of our grief. Grief needs to be witnessed, acknowledged and shared.

The most important thing to enable grief is to listen to someone talk about it. Their feelings, their memories, their challenges. You don't need to say anything. Being with them, holding space for them, showing empathy and compassion by making time, showing up and by listening are all good starting points. Being alongside people who have been bereaved, showing them that we see their grief, that we will listen to their stories and memories, is one of the reasons for an afternoon tea on the cemetery. Another reason is the aim to normalise loss and bereavement by encouraging conversations about death, dying and grief. They are part of life, yet we rarely mention them.

Bereavements are part of life, and the more we talk about them, the better we can cope with them. All of us, inside and outside of church.

This afternoon tea was the 6th one. We have a local grief team made up of people from the local community hub, the local funeral directors and the local Methodist Church. And we are all passionate about caring for people who have been bereaved. We offer bereavement support groups, but not everyone wants to come along to one of them. So, we decided to go where the bereaved are: on the cemetery, tending to the graves of their loved ones.

We joined them with coffee, tea and cake. And they came – enjoying cake and conversations, a place to feel safe and seen, an opportunity to connect with others, knowing that they, too, may know what it feels like.

Will you start something similar in your locality? How can you care for the bereaved where you are? If you want to explore this in a conversation, please do contact Rev Debora Marschner on 0114 272 6561.

The Methodist Conference has elected and inducted the Revd Mark Slaney to serve as President and Caroline Stead to serve as Vice-President.

The induction marks the start of their year in office.

- [The Presidents address to the Conference.](#)
- [The Vice-Presidents address to the Conference.](#)

Online Communion

Following five years of deliberation, it was generally agreed that online celebrations of Holy Communion should be permitted in the Methodist Church. However, this will not come into force until the matter has received approval from the Synods. To read [the full article click here.](#)

Office workers' gathering Tuesday 14 July

The next Gathering for all those involved in church administration will be held at Cemetery Road Baptist Church, Napier Road, Sheffield.

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](#)

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.

The Methodist Church in Sheffield: Circuit Meeting News

Our June Circuit Meeting took place on 22 June 2026 at St Paul's Dronfield. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 17 September 2026.

Church Events and Information

Carterknowle Methodist Church Summer Fayre - Saturday 18th July 11am-2pm

Come along to our open day, these will be lots of activities for you to do or just come along and have a chat and a coffee in the sun.

Our garden project is nearing completion so at 11.00 we will be having a short dedication ceremony to officially open it, though there will still be some work to do over the coming months.

For the younger at heart, we will have games on the lawn, including a bean bag toss and quoits and maybe even hook a duck. In the hall there will also be face painting and a pocket money lucky dip.

We will also have our 3D printed toys all exquisitely made

Karen will be bringing a range of second-hand household items and clothes & bric-a-brac, come along & grab a bargain.

We will have our usual homemade cakes stall and our ever-popular plants stall.

We will also have some painting & drawing materials around. We are asking you to draw pictures for us to use around the building to make it look more interesting. If you can draw plants from a garden, or pictures of families and anything else you can think of we can put up on our walls that would be great.

Hallam Band will be providing music in the Church from 12 – 1.30. They practice with us every week, so it is great that they are supporting us today.

And last but not least, our café will be open with our usual open day menu. With African & Caribbean food and jacket potatoes and maybe a few other treats too

Metal Methodist Worship Saturday 18 July 3:00 pm

Metal Methodist Worship will take place at St Paul's Methodist Church, Dronfield. Come along at 3pm on Saturday 18 July for chat, heavy music and worship with an alternative vibe. All welcome! Please get in touch with Kate, Metal Methodist Development Worker, for more info on

katemetalmethodist@outlook.com

MWiB District Day, 17 July, 11am-3pm

The Sheffield District MWiB are delighted that the guest speaker at this event will be the National Co-Chair of MWiB, Olive Ruzidzo. She will be speaking on the theme "The Table of Grace: Finding Community in the Transitions of Life"

All are welcome to come along on 17 July at **Hoyland & Birdwell Methodist Church**, Sheffield Rd, Birdwell, Barnsley S70 5XB. Refreshments will be available from 10:30 ready for a 11am start, and aims to finish by 3pm. Bring your own lunch.

Justice and Peace

Support the Call for Responsible Finance, Climate Justice

"Financial institutions play a vital role in supporting economies and enabling development. But no one expects their savings to be used, even indirectly, to finance environmental destruction or human rights abuses, or to harm children."

The Methodist Church in Britain and Epworth Investment, along with the Methodist Churches in Ireland and Colombia and the World Council of Churches, are inviting churches and faith organisations to sign an open letter backing the recently submitted [OECD complaint against HSBC](#). The letter will be handed to HSBC on 10 July. Read the [full article here](#).

Tearfund - DEC Venezuela Earthquake Appeal

On 24 June, two back-to-back earthquakes, including a 7.5 magnitude tremor, struck Venezuela near Montalbán and the capital city of Caracas.

The destruction is widespread. Hundreds of buildings have collapsed. Families have lost everything in a matter of minutes.

Your church can respond with Jesus' love this Sunday by praying for those affected and donating to our emergency appeal. Click here to [donate to this appeal](#).

Good News

Green Moor Scarecrow Competition

Green Moor Methodist Church decided to enter the village scarecrow competition.

After some conversation we remembered some years ago an event where we created a life size, woven willow Joseph, Mary and Donkey! After some rummaging around in cellars and sheds, they were located, brushed down and the old blackbirds nest removed from the donkeys head! They needed some repairs and a bit of fresh willow, donated to us from the original creator who lives in the village.

We dressed them as John Wesley and his horse (who we named Gospel, from the recent children's book) and entered them in the competition. They stood on the corner of the chapel garden, overlooking the road, and initiated great conversations about who he was among the passers by. Thankfully they survived the rain, storm, wind and blazing hot sunshine for a week, and then won the competition!

Great news from Sam's Space (Firth Park methodist church)

"We are proud to announce that we have passed our Ofsted registration today. Which means we can provide After School provision and crèches from September. We are excited about what this means for us at Sam's Space and our community".

To join the [Facebook page click here](#).

Children and Young People

What is 3Generate?

3Generate is the Methodist Church in Britain's annual youth assembly, taking place every October at the NEC in Birmingham. Children and young people from ages 8-18 from across the Connexion come together for a weekend jam-packed with faith, fun and worship. Sign up to the Delivery Team or [book your tickets now!](#)

Ticket sales close July 31st. Limited tickets will be available after this date.

Funding

Funding from Major Trusts & Foundations Funding

Wednesday 30th September 09.30am-2.30pm (online)

This new SYFAB course focusses on identifying and securing funding from charitable trusts and foundations, which are a growing source of funding for community, voluntary and charitable activities, events, projects and organisations, which are working to meet needs in communities.

Our tutor Kate Thompson is an expert fundraiser with a specialism in working with trusts and foundations

- In this course, you will learn the basic skills, along with some tips and tricks that will support you to successfully fundraise the money needed to meet your group or organisations aims or aspirations.
- You will look at how to search for information on different grant-givers, how to approach them and crucially how to build a long-term relationship.
- You will then build your case for support, and we will also give you a deeper understanding of how grant-giving charities operate.

Cost: £80.00 (£40.00 for groups working in Sheffield)

[Click here for full event details](#)

Other Information and News

Zest are running a Death Café, Thursday July 23rd, from 2 - 3.30pm

This is a safe space to talk openly about death, loss and grief. There will be refreshments and a warm welcome if you would like to join us. You can [book a space here](#).

Exploring Embodied Spirituality, Saturday, July 25 10am - 4pm

Whirlow Spirituality Centre

This taster day on embodied prayer and spirituality invites you to explore wordless, playful and contemplative practice using your whole being – body, mind and spirit to worship, pray and encounter God. The day will be facilitated by Soobie Whitfield, a dance practitioner, who has been journeying with this practice for over 40 years. She describes herself as a fidgety contemplative. Click [here for further details on this session](#).

Single Friendly Church Week, 27 September – 4 October 2026

For one week, churches, leaders, and individuals across the UK are coming together to say clearly: single people at every stage of life are welcomed, valued, and included here. Whether you're never married, divorced, widowed, or a single parent, you belong at the heart of this community, and not on its edges. [Find out more here](#)