

Sheffield Circuit Newsletter

26 August 2026

Please note the next newsletter will be published on 2 September. Information for the newsletter should arrive before 12noon on the day.

A prayer for courage to join God's song

God,
whose life dances in and beyond all creation,
whose song resounds throughout the universe and beyond,
you call us to add our voices to your harmony
and long all voices to be part of your song of infinite grace.
May we have the courage to raise our voices to join your song
and the sensitivity to enable all voices to be heard.
May we know and rest in the silence that births new melodies.
May all hearts echo with the resonance of your love.
May our voices be raised in shouts of protest,
in howling cries of grief and in gentle sounds of comfort.
May we join the yearning choir in the reality of deep lament
that longs for change and brings healing into being. Amen.

Rachel Bending, Chair, Southampton District

Methodist Church Prayer Hub

Growing in Faith, Circuit Prayer

Every Wednesday 8pm

Zoom circuit prayer 94411865948 999757

Sheffield Circuit Welcome Service - Wednesday 2 September at 7.30pm

The service will be led by Revd Vicky Atkins and held at Totley Rise Methodist Church (Grove Road, S17 4DJ). Join us as we welcome new Ministers Revd Andrew Atkins, Revd Gift Chanakira and Revd Naomi Kaiga to the Sheffield Circuit. **Please share!**

A fond farewell to Rev Ian Lucraft as he begins his retirement

This month the volunteers from the Stockbridge Food Matters, based in The Stockbridge Christian Centre, gathered together over a celebration lunch on the retirement of Rev Ian Lucraft, a much loved minister whose steady presence, gentle humour, unwavering compassion and determination has shaped our community. As Ian steps down into retirement, we give thanks for the countless ways he has blessed our community and made a difference. We pray that this new chapter brings him rest, joy and the freedom to enjoy the things he loves.

From all of us: thank you, Ian for your faithful service.

May God bless you

District Gathering - Methodist on Mission, Saturday 12 September

Everyone is welcome to this free event, whether you are coming for the first time, have attended previous District Gatherings, or are a member of our Synod. It will be a day of learning, sharing and worship with a buffet lunch provided as we offer an opportunity to renew existing connections across our District and meet new people.

The focus, following the feedback from previous gatherings, is aimed at exploring discipleship and scripture through a number of different lenses:

- Missional – What might God be inviting us to do?
- Pastoral – How does this connect with people's lived experience?
- Exegetical – What did this mean in its original context?
- Homiletical – How might we communicate this message today?
- Prayerful – What is God saying to me?
- Visual/Imaginative – What do we notice, imagine and wonder?

Our hope is that this will demonstrate the richness of Scripture and encourage participants to appreciate the different ways we can read the Bible together. [Book your place now](#)

Are your church details correct on the Circuit website?

On the Circuit website we list the details of all Circuit churches. To check your [page please click here](#). Let us know if your church details need to be updated by emailing admin@sheffieldcircuit.org.uk

District Office

The Office will be closed several times over the summer including the 24- 31 August. There are also likely to be the occasional day when Katrin will be working from home (or other places). If you do need to get in touch, an email is the best means of communicating.

Food Works

We can live in a world of abundance if we build a bigger table, not a bigger fence.

The Methodist Circuit in Sheffield is working with Food Works to create a community market garden on the Carver Fields in Crosspool. This is part of a larger campaign by Food Works to create community food growing in every neighbourhood and every school in the city. Carver Fields will be transformed into a nature rich community market garden: growing beds, a public food forest with fruit trees and hedgerows, wildlife habitat, and produce for local people as well as for Food Works kitchens producing meals that go out across the city.

If you want to get involved, we'd love to hear from you. We are always looking for more volunteers, and you can join us [by signing up here](#). And, if your church has land, however scruffy or small, we would love to talk. We can work with you to turn it into a beautiful, productive community garden. And of course we would really welcome any donations to our fundraiser. Any amount up to £250 is matched by Aviva, so your money gets doubled! A £250 contribution will fund a school growing food for a year, but we'd be very happy to make that a church of your choice. To donate or find out [more please click here](#). Get in touch: rene@thefoodworks.org. **Let's build a bigger table for Sheffield together!**

Circuit News, Information and Events

The Methodist Church has created a useful tool kit for worship online

Whether you are thinking about livestreaming your services for the first time, or your church has been worshipping online for years, this toolkit is here to help.

It brings together clear, practical guidance on copyright, equipment, platforms, consent and accessibility — all in one place, and written for ordinary churches rather than technical experts. [Click here for details](#).

Need a laptop for your church work? We've made it simple.

Choosing a laptop can feel confusing, especially if computers aren't really your thing. We've made it easier. We've partnered with a trusted UK company called Scan Computers to help you get a good laptop at a fair price — without the stress. Rather than choosing from hundreds of options, we've asked Scan to suggest just one or two laptops that work well for church roles. If you already know what you need, or you're looking for something a little different, you can ask them for a package to suit you. Your contract and support is directly with Scan and they will manage your order. This service is open to everyone in the Methodist community — including ministers, church officers and volunteers. To [find out more or request a quote, click the link below: Laptop advice and quote service](#)

Circuit YouTube channel - Playlist updated

The Circuit YouTube channel has been updated with the latest streamed services across the Circuit.

[Catch up here.](#)

The Methodist Church in Sheffield: Circuit Meeting News

Our June Circuit Meeting took place on 22 June 2026 at St Paul's Dronfield. Please see the [notes](#) to find out what's happening in your Circuit. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 17 September 2026.

Church Events

Highfield Trinity Methodist Church will be taking part in Heritage Open Day for the first time this year. The church will be open from 10am to 4pm on Saturday 19 September 2026, when information about the history of the church will be on display. There will be an activity sheet for families and tea and coffee will be available. All welcome!

Children and Young People

The Leadership Year is an exciting opportunity for 18 30-year-olds in the Methodist Church aimed at those just starting a leadership role, or who want to be involved in leadership, either within or outside of the Church. It runs over three residential weekends, with a chance to reflect on what it means to be a Christian leader in church, secular workplaces and local communities.

There are 12 fully funded places available and applications close on 20 September. If you are interested [please read here for full details.](#)

Safeguarding

DBS launches Series 2 of its podcast to support safer recruitment across the UK

Thanks to Helen Bolton, ROS in the North West for the following information:

[DBS launches series 2 of its podcast to support safer recruitment across the UK](#)

These podcasts cover:

- How DBS Checks Support Safer Recruitment
- Levels of DBS Checks — Working with Children
- Levels of DBS Checks — Working with Adults
- How Police Consider Disclosing Information on Certificates
- How Employers Should Consider Information Disclosed on Certificates
- Your DBS Questions Answered

Listen to [DBS Discussions on Spotify.](#)

Listen to [DBS Discussions on YouTube.](#)

Listen to [DBS Discussions on Amazon Music.](#)

(From the District newsletter)

Funding

Pride in Place government funding webinar event in September

This is a quick reminder to register if you haven't already. The webinar is taking place online via Zoom on Wednesday 30th September 2026 from 10am to 12 midday.

You can register using this link:

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Zbjz4eQcTp65wLZMlihJGg

The session is a chance for church leaders in Pride in Place locations to learn more about the 5bn community funding programme, and how you might be able to get involved in your specific context. We'll be joined by representatives from the Ministry for Housing, Communities, and Local Government (MHCLG), along with case studies from churches already involved in their local Pride in Place work.

SYFAB Funding Surgery on Thursday 24th September, 10am-4pm

Handsworth Methodist Church (S13 9BN)

Booking Essential! On any of these issues:

- Finding funding for your project or group
- Starting Up & Running a New Group or Project
- Volunteering / Volunteer Management
- Training and much more!

Book a FREE 45 minute appointment - Email: Karen Walke karen@syfab.org.uk or call: 07529 323 342.

More information email: enquiries@syfab.org.uk or call 0114 261 5141

Training Opportunities

An online session for pastoral carers 15 September, 7pm

Pastoral visiting is one of the simplest and most meaningful ways we can care for one another—but it also comes with real questions. How do I know when it's appropriate to visit? Should I go alone? What if meeting at home isn't possible? And what happens when a conversation goes beyond what I feel equipped to handle? Learn more and [book](#):

Other Information and News

Methodist Women in Britain

The [MWiB Autumn Newsletter](#) and [Prayer Diary](#) is now out. Included in the newsletter is details about their 16 Days of Activism, starting on 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. You can also find out about the proposed changes to governance as well as other news and updates. [Download the newsletter here](#).

Christians Against Poverty

[Fill in this short form](#) to explore how your church can come together and engage with the issue of UK poverty.

By hosting a CAP speaker, your church can be empowered to collectively consider the impact that poverty is having in your local area, discover how the church can become part of the solution, and be equipped to respond with hope, love and faith in the community. CAP has a wide-range of inspiring speakers who are based across the UK, and enthusiastic about visiting local churches like yours to bring engaging and informative biblical insights into the topic of UK poverty, which can help to both challenge and empower your church.

Liberation Theology Gathering 2026 (save the date)

Liberating the Left; Resisting the Far Right

24 October at Chapeltown Methodist Church, Sheffield.

Speakers include: Inderjit Bhogal, Al Barrett, Ruch Weston aka Born Stroppe and Chris Howson. Bring and share lunch, other refreshments provided.

Tickets on sale soon.