

Sheffield Circuit Newsletter

14 October 2026

Please note the next newsletter will be published on 21 October. **Share our [newsletter sign-up](#).**

A prayer for God's encouragement

God of mercy,
just now, grief comes easily, coupled with sorrow.
We bear witness to the devastation of war,
abuse of power and human cruelty.
We mourn loss of innocence,
that justice takes flight as our systems splinter.
God of goodness, change us.
Stir and inspire our hearts,
transform greed into grace,
fear into confidence.
Call us to speak for justice
grounded in love.
God of wisdom,
encourage us to seek and find joy,
and let it infuse our being.
May the hope that is in us defy the darkness. Amen.

Helen Hollands, Chair, East Anglia District

Methodist Church Prayer Hub

Growing in Faith, Circuit Prayer

Every Wednesday 8pm

Zoom circuit prayer 94411865948 999757

Circuit Weekly Devotions 2026

<https://www.sheffieldcircuit.org.uk/.../circuit-weekly...>

The Connexion provides an annual Prayer Handbook for this purposes, often built upon the Presidential theme for the year. This year it is called "Sorrow and Joy".

On the Sheffield Circuit we provide a weekly opportunity to pray together and on a Wednesday evening at 8:00pm under the leadership of Reverend James Morley (Deputy Superintendent). Please go to <https://www.facebook.com/metalmethodist> for details.

The Circuit is experimenting over the next 8 weeks up to the start of Advent with a weekly prayer resource on video. Each week you will be introduced to a member of the Circuit Staff Team, led in prayer. Please share!

In Stocksbridge we have been exploring the eco church resources from A Rocha.

We have used these with our Junior Church at Christ Church and at our weekday Lighthouse Kids clubs at The Christian Centre. Some of the activities we have undertaken so far have included:

- looking at the trees and plants around the churches
- making bug houses for our mini beasts
- looking at the recycling methods at both churches and making additional suggestions to the church councils
- Making posters to remind everyone about the importance of recycling
- Praising God for the wonder of his creation and giving thanks for this through art work and songs.
- Recycling old tee shirts into new tote bags.

We will be continuing with this focus up to harvest and this will form part of our harvest celebrations as well. The children at junior church and the lighthouse clubs have really enjoyed this work and the planning and resources from A Rocha have been excellent.

District Gathering - Save the Date

Our next Gathering will be on **Saturday 10 April at Wesley Hall** so do save this date!

The Methodist Church in Sheffield: Circuit Meeting News

Our September Circuit Meeting took place on 17 September 2026 at Wesley Hall. Please see the [notes](#) to find out what's happening in your Circuit. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 24 November 2026, at Bents Green Methodist church.

Circuit News, Information and Events

Church Events

People's Emergency Briefing - Community screening

Film screening followed by a community discussion.

Tuesday 27th October at 7.30pm at St Mark's Church, Broomhill, Sheffield

Free, but booking is essential as places are limited. Bring a friend or neighbour — everyone welcome!

Book your place: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/.../peoples-emergency...>

Good News Stories

Girls Brigade at Handsworth Woodhouse Methodist church

Girls' Brigade asked every group to raise £100 in the hope that £20,000 could be raised to secure matched funding.

18th Sheffield group at Handsworth had a copper and loose change collection and a bake sale. Thanks to our girls families we raised £121.45.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding as a Ministry of Justice and Care

October's Domestic Abuse Awareness Month provides a timely reminder that safeguarding is not simply about policies, procedures and legal responsibilities. While these are important, safeguarding is also a ministry of justice and care rooted in the Christian faith. It reflects God's concern for the vulnerable, His call to protect those at risk of harm, and His desire for all people to flourish in safe and loving communities.

Throughout Scripture, we see God's commitment to justice. The prophets repeatedly challenge God's people to defend the oppressed, care for the vulnerable, and act with integrity. Jesus Himself demonstrated a particular concern for those who were marginalised, overlooked, or at risk. As the Church seeks to follow Christ, safeguarding becomes more than a compliance requirement; it becomes an expression of discipleship.

A culture of safeguarding is built on valuing every person as being created in the image of God. It involves listening carefully to concerns, taking disclosures seriously, and ensuring that children, young people and adults at risk are protected from abuse and neglect. It also means recognising that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, not only that of ministers, safeguarding officers or church leaders.

Justice and care must go hand in hand. Justice requires us to respond appropriately when harm occurs, to support those who have been affected, and to challenge behaviours that place others at risk. Care calls us to walk alongside people with compassion, offering support, understanding and practical help in times of difficulty.

When churches embrace safeguarding as a ministry of justice and care, they create environments where people can grow in faith with confidence and trust. Safe churches are places where dignity is respected, voices are heard, and all are welcomed. By prioritising safeguarding, we reflect God's love in action and demonstrate our commitment to building communities that are both safe and grace-filled.

Safeguarding is not simply about preventing harm. It is about living out the Gospel through justice, compassion, and a deep commitment to the wellbeing of every person entrusted to our care. **Many thanks, Alison Hill**

Justice and Peace

Reflecting on the history of Methodism and Windrush generation

'Honouring our Communities' is the theme of Black History Month. It celebrates the contributions of Black people in Britain and reflects on past injustices. The post-World War Two workforce shortage led to people from the Caribbean being invited to fill the gaps. Norman Mullings, a member of Harlesden Methodist Church, shares his experience of arriving from Jamaica in 1958. [Watch the video here.](#)

Funding

Easy Fundraising - Apply for a £1,000 grant

Our Impact Fund offers 15 grants of £1,000 to UK not-for-profit organisations to help you continue or enhance your work. The grant is unrestricted and can be used where it's needed most. Applications close at midnight on Sunday 8th November.

<https://www.easypfundraising.org.uk/impact-fund/>

South Yorkshire Funding Advice Bureau (SYFAB)

SYFAB supports voluntary and community groups find the funding they need!

Sign up to their very useful [newsletter here.](#)

Training Opportunities

Responding to Bullying & Harassing Behaviour

[Click to book tickets and find details for this event.](#)

A short course to help you reduce the impact of bullying and harassing behaviour, and to reduce its likelihood. This programme promotes good working relationships and ways to manage bullying and harassing behaviour within the life of our churches and faith communities.

Other Information and News

International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church (IDOP) and the hand in of the Arise Africa petition

The International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church (IDOP) brings together Christians around the world in support of our persecuted family. This year's event takes place on 1 November 2026. Will you pray during your church service? Or host a dedicated prayer event? **This year, our free Prayer Pack focuses on our Arise Africa campaign** and includes everything you need to help your church engage in prayer and stand alongside our persecuted brothers and sisters.

To order the [resources please click.](#)

Embodied Prayer for the Season of Advent - Saturday, November 14, 9:30 AM 3:30 PM

‘The Word became flesh and lived among us.’ John 1

As we head towards the darker days of Winter, and on the eve of the start of Celtic Advent (40 days before Christmas), we will draw inspiration from the Celtic Christian tradition. Using embodied spirituality, stillness and nature we will explore the themes of gestation and incarnation.

<https://www.whirlowspiritualitycentre.org/whats-on/embodiedadvent>