The Methodist Church in Sheffield
. . . growing followers of Jesus

Sheffield Circuit Newsletter

4 November 2026

Please note the next newsletter will be published on 11 November. **Share our newsletter sign-up.**

A prayer that we might make a difference

Creator God, our joy is in the beauty of creation, in the splendour of nature and in bringing well-being and peace to the lives of those we are called to serve.
Generous God, our hearts are filled with sorrow when humanity tears itself apart in war, in conflict, in the devaluing of individuals and of creation.
Pour into us your life-giving grace that we may be the light of heaven in the darkness of the world. May we strive to make the world a better place, strengthened by Christ who lives in and through us. Amen.
Clive Price, Communications Manager, Methodist Ministers' Housing Society (MMHS)
Methodist Church Prayer Hub

Growing in Faith, Circuit Prayer

Every Wednesday 8pm
Zoom circuit prayer 94411865948 999757

Circuit charity for 2026 All We Can & Middle East Justice Appeal

At the September Circuit meeting it was agreed on the Circuit's to nominate ALL WE CAN's Middle East Justice Appeal as our charity for Advent and Christmas 2026. The choice of this charity appeal is timely and at the front of all our minds as we watch the news, read newspapers etc.
Please see this year's Methodist President Rev Mark Slaney's talk at June's Methodist Conference:
"*Right now, people are living through suffering and terror. Our partners remain on the front line of a relentless humanitarian crisis, supporting communities affected in Gaza and Lebanon. To support them, All We Can has relaunched its appeal with the Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church, continuing to fundraise for partners delivering life-transforming and essential work.*
I (Mark Slaney) visited one of these partners earlier this year. Princess Basma Centre, located on the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem, has supported Palestinian children with disabilities since 1964 through rehabilitation services and an inclusive school. It combines clinical care, education and family support, working closely with children and their parents. The Centre aims to ensure all Palestinian children with disabilities have access to quality healthcare, inclusive education and future opportunities. Its school serves around 450 students annually, offering both inclusive and specialised classes to help all students achieve success and improve their futures.
The Centre was posed to launch its new outlying work in Gaza just as the attacks of 7 October 2023 changed everything. The new work was reimagined, despite the ravages of terrorist and military

action, and operates with a small team of educationalists, nurses and doctors from a tent in Gaza. This team meet weekly online with the wider staff of the Jerusalem base. It is a remarkable, resilient, courageous and vulnerable piece of work".

If you are able to support and collect donations:

1. Please contact the Circuit for the bank details (admin@sheffieldcircuit.org.uk / 0114 2997130) by Monday 11 January or
2. Send a cheque payable to 'Sheffield Methodist Circuit', by Monday 11 January (make it clear your cheque is for All We Can)

Circuit Weekly Devotions 2026

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

Please take a look at this week's Devotion, with Revd Debora Marschner and Revd Sean Adair. **Please share!**

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

Christmas services around the Circuit

Please let us know about your carol concerts, nativities, Christingles etc by emailing admin@sheffieldcircuit.org.uk and we will compile a list of these and share them!

Out of the Ordinary Christmas

Is your church reaching out to the community in an unusual way this Christmas? We want to hear from you! We are looking for Methodist Churches across the Connexion who are hosting out-of-the-ordinary evangelism events at Advent. Perhaps you are hosting classic cars with your carols, or putting on a nativity scene with real animals? Email mediaoffice@methodistchurch.org.uk

Don't be Afraid - Advent and Christmas 2026

- Resources to help your church journey through Advent, celebrate Christmas, and share good news with your community -

This Advent we listen again to the angel's words: "Don't be afraid". In Scripture, these words are not a demand but a gift. They reassure us that, while God's presence is awe-inspiring, in Jesus, God comes to us in self-sacrificing love.

And Jesus experiences with us all the things that make us afraid, so that we are no longer alone in our fear. Yes, the world is a scary place. Yes, life is hard. You are not alone.

As we journey through Advent, let's help one another recognise the presence of God in the midst of frightening times. There may be all kinds of pressures making people afraid this Christmas – from news headlines to personal struggles with poverty, grief and sickness – for people within and beyond our churches.

The message this Christmas is that God is here in Jesus, and we can all notice and experience this for ourselves.

Please **click here to browse the resources.**

Church Events

MWiB Carol service, Bents Green

11 December at 11am

MWiB Carol service will be held on Friday 11am, followed by alternative Christmas Dinner details to follow - cost will be £12. All are welcome. Please contact Carol or Pam Meek to purchase tickets.

Children & Youth Events

We are pleased to launch Encounter Together in Brazil

A two-week group pilgrimage to Brazil for young adults of the Methodist Church in Britain, aged 18-30. Please share this information within your churches and circuits, and invite young adults that you know to explore whether this pilgrimage could be a part of their journey of faith and discipleship. Interested? Then we would love to see you at our online information session, 4 November at 6pm. Register here. Follow this link to find out more.

Justice and Peace

Hardship and hope: how groups & churches make a difference in Sheffield

Bob Rae from Sheffield Church Action on Poverty reports on their 2026 Urban Poverty Pilgrimage Supporters of Church Action on Poverty from Sheffield have visited a series of initiatives designed to alleviate poverty in the Highfield and Heeley districts of the city as part of their annual Urban Poverty Pilgrimage.

Twenty people took part in the Pilgrimage, which aims to raise awareness and understanding of how poverty is affecting different areas of Sheffield and how churches and voluntary organisations are responding.

This year's Pilgrimage started at Highfield Trinity Methodist Church and ended at St Wilfrid's day centre for homeless, vulnerable or socially excluded adults which is celebrating the 35th anniversary of its founding by the Catholic Church.
In between, Pilgrim's took in Heeley Parish Church, Heeley City Farm, The Samaritans' Sheffield headquarters and the St Vincent de Paul Furniture Store.
Pilgrims heard how Highfield Trinity Church hosts the Hope of Glory Church, the ShipShape Wellbeing Hub and Joybank, an organisation that collects pre-owned and donated toys, games and books and distributes them to families in financial hardship.
Click here to read the full article.

Job Vacancies

The Sheffield Methodist District seeks to appoint into the newly visioned post of Property Development Manager. Working District-wide the successful applicant will have the skills and knowledge to work collaboratively with the District Leadership Team to creatively repurpose the District's property portfolio to generate new sources of recurring income. Email mission@sheffieldmethodist.org for general enquiries and informal conversations.
https://www.sheffieldmethodist.org/recruitment/vacancies/property-development-manager.html
Deadline Friday 6 November

Bents Green Church - Part-time Youth and Families Worker

£15 per hour
Up to 20 hours available per week
Closes 23/11/26, Midday
Part-time, Permanent
An exciting opportunity for developing family and children's activities at Bents Green Church from 2027
Bents Green Methodist Church is seeking to employ a Part-Time Youth and Families Worker with a vision for creating new opportunities and improving existing activities for children, young people and families.
https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=1222950513500619 29&set=p.1222950513500619 29&type=3

Further information about the church and about the application can be obtained from Glenn Evans (dglennevans@hotmail.co.uk) or John Wilkins (johnwilkins73@gmail.com).

Safeguarding

Safeguarding in a Digital World

Recent national discussions about children's online safety have highlighted the growing challenges faced by young people in navigating the digital world. The Government has announced plans for stronger protections for children online, while Ofcom continues to strengthen expectations on technology companies to reduce children's exposure to harmful content and improve age-verification measures. Despite these efforts, concerns remain about the impact of harmful online material on children and young people.

For churches, this serves as a timely reminder that safeguarding is not just about what happens within our buildings and activities. Increasingly, children's experiences, relationships and vulnerabilities extend into online spaces. Risks such as cyberbullying, exploitation, inappropriate content and online grooming can all have significant effects on a young person's wellbeing, confidence and mental health.

Whilst legislation, regulation and technology all have an important part to play, safeguarding remains fundamentally about people and relationships. As church communities, we are often in a unique position to provide trusted, supportive environments where children, young people and families feel able to talk about their concerns. A simple conversation, a listening ear or an awareness of the pressures facing young people today can make a significant difference.

The updated Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026 guidance reinforces the message that safeguarding is a shared responsibility and recognises the increasing importance of responding to online harms alongside more traditional safeguarding concerns.

As we continue our safeguarding journey across the Sheffield Methodist District, perhaps the challenge for all of us is to remain curious about the experiences of the children and young people we serve. Are we creating spaces where they feel safe, heard and valued? Are we equipped to have conversations about the realities of life online? And are we demonstrating the same care and vigilance in digital spaces as we do in our church communities?

Safeguarding is not simply about managing risk. At its heart, it is about creating communities where everyone can flourish safely, confidently and with dignity.

Alison Hill

Funding

The Home Office's Protective Security Scheme for Faith Communities is now open for applications.

The scheme provides fully funded physical security measures to eligible places of worship and associated faith community centres that have experienced hate crime or feel vulnerable to it. Available measures include:

- CCTV; Secure fencing and gates; Stronger doors and locks; Window protection; Intruder alarms; Entry systems, including keypads, fobs and intercoms; External lighting; Secure mailboxes

The application portal is open until 21 December 2026. Eligible sites can apply via the Home Office application portal, here.

Applicant support sessions

The Home Office will host drop-in sessions and workshops to explain the application process, outline what successful applications look like and give applicants an opportunity to ask questions.

The sessions will take place on:

- Monday 9 November 2026, 13:00–14:00
- Tuesday 17 November 2026, 14:00–15:00
- Wednesday 2 December 2026, 15:00–16:00

To register, email psvc@homeoffice.gov.uk.

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

Taking Care of your Funds for Faith Charities webinar - Charity Commission

This webinar will provide guidance on Taking Care of your Funds for Faith Charities and cover the following:

• Internal financial controls;
• Managing expenses and payments to trustees and conflicts of interest;
• Signposting to where you can get further help and guidance.

Date/Time: **Tuesday 1 December 2026, 12:00pm to 1:00pm**

FAITH: Taking Care of your Funds for Faith Charities Webinar Booking by Bookwhen

Other Information and News

Unlock update 2027 - Please click here to read Unlock's latest newsletter.

Be a Secret Santa for a vulnerable child

Christmas is a time of hope and light, when we celebrate the birth of Christ and the promise of peace on earth.

The magic of Christmas begins in childhood. Hanging stockings. Sharing festive food. Presents under the tree. It's a time for children to feel loved and make memories that last a lifetime.

But for too many children across the UK, Christmas is anything but magical. No stockings. No presents. No festive food – often no food at all. But you could help change that.
Become a Secret Santa for a vulnerable child today by visiting Iamsanta.org.uk/hope.
You can also make a difference through fundraising activities like hosting a crochet-a-thon, holding a quiz, or coming up with your own fundraising ideas. Sign up to fundraise here.

The Leprosy Mission

We are launching Operation Olgeta, to bring the Jesus healing and hope to people affected by leprosy in Papua New Guinea. I'd love your church or group to join us! Will you help us in 2027?
Book a speaker
Our experienced and passionate speakers can inspire your church, community group, school or network about how you can transform lives affected by leprosy.
Simply fill in the form.

The Methodist Church newsletter

The District Newsletter