Thetford Diss and Mildenhall

Circuit Mission Plan

The calling of the Methodist Church is to respond to the gospel of God’s love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission.

Our calling is centred on:

**Worship** – to increase awareness of God’s presence and to celebrate God’s love.

**Learning and Caring** – to help people learn and grow as Christians through mutual support and care.

**Service** – to be a good neighbour to all people in need, showing compassion and empathy, and to challenge injustice.

**Evangelism** – to make more followers of Jesus Christ.
In response to this calling, the TDM Methodist Circuit will focuses on:

* Having a foundation of God-centred worship and prayer.
* Promoting community support especially among the poor and most deprived – in our rural, market town and military communities and through.
* Building confidence in evangelism and in the ability to speak of Christ and our faith in ways that make sense.
* Encouraging new ways of making church more relevant locally, nurturing a church culture which is people-centred, caring and flexible.

Appling these principles as follows.

Worship

* Fostering a greater awareness of God’s presence and experience God’s love.
* Providing accessible ways for people to engage with prayer, word, and sacrament.
* Encouraging the provision of worship opportunities appropriate for people of all.
* Developing lay and ordained people including local preachers, worship leaders and stewards leading local arrangements by teaching skills which enhance worship wherever possible. E.g. music, dance and drama
* Maximising the quality of worship opportunities within the Circuit, relevant to the context of each community.
* Empowering members across the Circuit to pool resources, (materials and skills).
* Promoting growth Spiritual Fruit and openness to Spiritual gifts.
* Offering opportunities to join in with quality live-streamed services and events and developing use of quality technology in our churches.

Learning and Caring

* Facilitating, by preaching, teaching word and deed, the Gospel of God’s grace.
* Encouraging all who are part of our church communities to grow in their faith, learning and spiritual lives.
* Providing resources, training and ideas (including the LPWL network and The Learning Network) for those who wish to learn more about our faith and how it might be communicated to others.
* Creating opportunities across the Circuit for those at all stages of faith to learn more about the Christian faith.
* Equipping church group leaders to network for mutual support, training and encouragement. E.g. house groups, worship leaders.
* Encouraging churches in their ministry to the elderly, marginalised, children, young people and local military personnel isolated from their familial support networks..
* Encouraging churches to show God’s love in their ministry of pastoral care.
* Committing to safeguarding and promoting safer culture within our churches.

Service

* Exploring ways of witnessing to our faith by being alongside those who are vulnerable in need and on the margins, the lonely and disadvantaged through our. lunch clubs, coffee mornings and warm spaces.
* Partnering with agencies who work with vulnerable and impoverished people in our communities. E.g. CAP, Youth for Christ, local councils, RAF and USAF chaplaincy.
* Becoming part of a justice-seeking Church which speaks out on social, environmental and economic inequalities throughout God’s world.
* Encouraging and supporting the provision of safe, inclusive, welcoming, warm, well-maintained, accessible, and child-friendly premises for both our own use and for all in the wider community.

Evangelism

* Encouraging and inspiring passion for sharing the good news of Christianity.
* Remembering that we all have good news to share, and developing people’s confidence to offer their own testimony.
* Creating opportunities to make new disciples and enable discipleship.
* Explore ways of witnessing to our faith in the HIGHWAYS and BYWAYS with ‘New Places for New People’ (NPNP) and enable discipleship, worship and service.
* Working ecumenically in order to improve the effectiveness of our mission activity especially with the rural poor and military communities within our circuit..

These four aspects of our calling are energised by the underpinning foundation stones of efficient governance and appropriate use of resources.

Governance and Resources

* Strategically plan and manage our Circuit finances.
* Share best practice and where needed, assist churches to decide how best to manage their financial information.
* Ensure good reporting and compliance with relevant authorities. E.g. The Charity Commission.
* Ensure that each church has up-to-date policies and procedures. E.g. Safeguarding, GDPR.
* Develop strategy with the Circuit leadership team, comprising staff, Circuit stewards and any others with relevant expertise.
* Maintain manses to an appropriate standard and give advice and help to churches on the proper maintenance of their premises.
* Seek ways in which individual churches might come together to share trusteeship, common systems and specialist resources.

Our Strategic Future Focus

We have a vision to grow God’s ministry in our rural circuit over the next 5 years.

We see our existing churches as ‘Highways of Faith’ through which we aim to promote the message of Christ’s Love for all in traditional and new ways. We will utilise both lay and ordained ministers to achieve this and at present see that a minimum of 2 ordained Presbyters are required for this work.

We also feel called to engage in working with the New Places for New People programme. It is our belief that God is calling us to engage with the 3 large military communities on RAF Bases that are situated within our Circuit alongside the need to develop our work within villages and remote rural locations. This we see as working in the ‘Byways’.