

Mission Statement and Strategy 2023-2028

Mission Statement 2023

“The calling of the Methodist Church is to respond to the good news of God’s love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission”

In this, and in partnership with others wherever possible, Chelmsford Methodist Circuit will devote its prayers, resources, encouragement, and commitments on this priority:

Supporting God’s People, sharing God’s love

Our vision is for a Christ-centred Circuit of vibrant, growing churches supporting each other in expressing God’s love and sharing it with others.

As ways towards realising this priority, the circuit will give attention to the following:

- Underpinning everything we do with God-centred worship and prayer.
- Supporting community development and action for justice, especially among the most deprived and poor – in Britain and worldwide
- Making followers of Christ by developing confidence in evangelism and in the capacity to speak of God and faith in ways that make sense to all involved.
- Encouraging fresh ways of understanding church.
- Nurturing an inclusive church which cares for all.

Worship

The church exists to increase awareness of God’s presence and to celebrate God’s love.

We will:

- Offer to the communities around us safe places for worship and acceptance.
- Facilitate the worship of God in places other than our buildings (e.g. residential homes, new areas of housing).
- Help people grow a greater awareness of God’s awesome presence, and to experience his love, at all stages of life.
- Encourage and make available varied worship opportunities appropriate for people of all ages, during the week as well as on Sundays.
- Encourage and support the use of technology in our churches to enable all to participate.
- Support access for all to prayer and study resources.

Learning

Help people to grow and learn as Christians.

We will:

- Support churches and resource members in continuing to grow and delight in Christian discipleship and leadership.
- Support the training and development of our ordained and lay people including Local Preachers, Worship Leaders and others.
- Encourage each other at all stages of the faith journey through Bible study/fellowship/house groups.
- Encourage churches to run membership classes.
- Inform and inspire people to be passionate about justice, peace and integrity of creation.
- Provide opportunities for experience and learning about faith sharing.
- Support training required by Connexion (e.g. Safeguarding, EDI, Unconscious Bias).

Caring & Service

Be a good neighbour to people in need and challenge injustice

We will:

- Create safe communities characterised by hospitality, generosity, welcome, care, acceptance and respect.
- Provide prayerful, caring support for our Ministry and leadership.
- Inspire an outward looking focus to the life and service of the churches within the circuit.
- Use our influence to have an impact on issues of equality, diversity and inclusion both locally and more widely.
- Encourage everyone to regard being active in service as part of their Christian life; and find ways to witness to our faith through fulfilling needs in our communities and to do what we can to support those in need in the wider world.
- Give generously, but with due thought and prayer, of time and money for God's work in the church and in the world.
- Work for justice and peace.
- Encourage those responsible for local churches and Circuit properties to plan towards achieving the Methodist Connexional Net Zero Target (carbon emissions by 2030) [Further info on "Action for Hope" on Methodist Website]

Evangelism

The church exists to make more followers of Jesus Christ

We will:

- Guard against being apologetic for our faith.
- Provide more opportunities to explore the Bible and Christian faith, and the confidence to share it with others.
- Engage in mission activities both inside and outside our buildings and to those we meet outside the church in daily life.
- Use opportunities in community groups and at occasions such as baptisms, weddings, funerals and Christmas and Easter to share our faith.
- Work with other Christian churches to explore openings for evangelism in the community.
- Encourage people to be able to pray with and for those who are working for peace and hope.

Circuit Mission Strategy 2023-2028

To fulfil these priorities, as a circuit we will:

- Support each of the circuit churches in producing new versions of their mission statements and strategy that are Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Timetabled (SMART) by 31st August 2024.
- Encourage work that is ecumenical, people-centred, flexible and innovative.
- Concentrate on the development of new visions and ways of being church relevant for 21st Century, through continued analysis of the circuit's resources of people, property, and finance, and use them in ways that will most effectively further the work of God and the circuit.
- Encourage all churches to achieve a higher Eco standard, to reduce energy costs and help protect the environment by introduction of local Eco policies.

Year	Task	Responsibility	Projected Outcome	Completed
2023	Assess requirements for ministry from 2024	CLT	Pastoral and financial stability	✓
	Enter stationing	Stationing group	Confirmed staffing levels	✓
2023/4	Complete stationing and review of resources	CLT	Confirmed staffing levels	✓
2024 Lent	Launch Circuit mission statement and strategy	CLT	Clear Circuit Strategy	✓
	Set up Circuit prayer group	CLT	Prayer support for ministry and mission	To 2025
August 31st	Complete church mission statements	CLT and Church Councils	Clearly defined vision & purpose	✓
	Establish 5-year plan for manse management	Manses sub-group	Well maintained manses within budget	✓
	Continue to look with enquiring eyes and prayerful hope at the circumstances of local churches, their opportunities and threats	Vision group in Chelmsford City	Ongoing conversation about the shape of circuit life, co-operation and fellowship	✓

Year	Task	Responsibility	Projected Outcome	Completed
2024	Review Circuit Mission Strategy	CLT, Vision groups & Circuit Meeting	Relevant Strategy	✓
	Review church mission statements	Church Councils	Relevant vision and purpose	✓
	Continue to look with enquiring eyes and prayerful hope at the circumstances of local churches, their opportunities and threats	Vision groups in Chelmsford Centre and Maldon Sector Halstead, LEPs	Ongoing conversation about the shape of circuit life, co-operation and fellowship	✓
	Enter stationing	Circuit Invitation Committee	Review staffing levels	✓
	Review ministry and mission of Halstead	CLT/CIC	Clarify Ministerial Responsibility	✓
May 2024	Inaugurate annual circuit event	Prayer group	Worship/prayer day	✓
	Initiate spread of Anna Chaplaincy	Anna chaplaincy group	Dementia awareness training	✓
	Review and manage future use of Hall Street	Property management group	Community use/sale Sold	✓

Year	Task	Responsibility	Projected outcome	Completed
2025	Complete stationing and review of resources	CLT/CIC	Confirmed staffing levels	✓
2025	Inaugurate Circuit Justice event (Equality, Diversity & Inclusion)	Circuit EDI Officer & EDI champions	Annual event	In progress
2025	All churches complete access audit	Church Councils & Circuit EDI Officer	Each church to have an accessibility action plan	Audits ✓
	Review Circuit Mission Strategy	CLT, Vision groups & Circuit Meeting	Relevant Strategy	✓
2025	Review Circuit Eco Policy	CLT		✓
2025	Inaugurate Circuit Eco-event	Circuit Eco-team	Annual event	
2025	Continue to look with enquiring eyes and prayerful hope at the circumstances of local churches, their opportunities and threats	Vision group in Chelmsford City	Ongoing conversation about the shape of circuit life, co-operation and fellowship	✓
2025	Review LEP Coggeshall	Superintendent/URC Minister & ecumenical officers	Clear, documented partnership agreements	✓
2025	Property Review including manses	CLT	Ensure our property supports Ministry and mission	✓
2025	Support Leaders of Worship and Preachers	CLT	Offer Annual Retreat Day and resources	✓

Year	Task	Responsibility	Projected outcome	Completed
2026	All churches to be registered with A Rocha Eco Church Scheme	CLT and church Eco Champions		
2026	Continue to look with enquiring eyes and prayerful hope at the circumstances of local churches, their opportunities and threats	Vision group in Chelmsford City	Ongoing conversation about the shape of circuit life, co-operation and fellowship	
2026	Review Circuit Mission Strategy	CLT, Vision groups & Circuit Meeting	Relevant Strategy	
2026	Property Review including manses	CLT	Ensure our property supports Ministry and mission	
2026	Review LEP at St Augustine's	Superintendent/URC Minister & ecumenical officers	Clear, documented partnership agreements	
2026	Initiate pioneer/ New Places for New People project	Pioneer vision group	Research for New Places for New People project	
Year	Task	Responsibility	Projected outcome	Completed
2027	Consider pioneer work on Chelmsford Garden City also New Places for New People	Pioneer vision group	Details in proposal document	
2027	Review Circuit Mission Strategy	CLT, Vision groups & Circuit Meeting	Relevant Strategy	
2027	Review LEP at South Woodham Ferrers	Superintendent, all Ministers & ecumenical officers	Clear, documented partnership agreements	

Year	Task	Responsibility	Projected outcome	Completed
2028	Review Circuit Mission Strategy	CLT, Vision groups & Circuit Meeting	Relevant Strategy	
2028	Review Manses 5-year strategy	Manses sub-group	Well maintained manses within budget	
2028	Review LEP at Braintree	Superintendent/URC Minister & ecumenical officers	Clear, documented partnership agreements	
2028	Assess requirements for Ministry from 2029			