



St Austell Methodist Circuit: Mission Statement and Strategy 2019-22

The Circuit is a Registered Charity with the Charity Commission, No. 1141712

Mission Statement 2019

“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.”

In partnership with others wherever possible, St Austell Methodist Circuit will concentrate its prayers, resources, imagination and commitments on this priority: **to proclaim and affirm its conviction of God’s love in Christ, for us and for all the world; and renew confidence in God’s presence and action in the world and in the Church.**

As ways towards realising this priority, the Circuit will give particular 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
- 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 being Church
- Nurturing a culture in the Church which is people-centred and flexible

Worship

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

We will:

- Support the training and development of Local Preachers, Worship Leaders, and others;
- Offer to the communities around us safe places for worship and acceptance;
- Facilitate the worship of God in places other than our buildings, including residential homes and at special times such as Christmas and Easter;
- Help people have a greater awareness of God’s awesome presence, and to experience His love, especially through Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals;
- Enable prayer to be an offering to God and a blessing to others;
- Encourage and make available varied worship opportunities appropriate for people of all age, including children and young people, during the week as well as on Sundays
- Encourage and support the use of technology in our churches;

Jesus said ‘Worship the Lord your God and serve only Him.’ Mt 4.11

Learning and Caring

The Church exists to help people learn and grow as Christians, through mutual support and care.

We will:

- Provide discipleship opportunities for all Christians, enabling them to grow in their learning and in their spiritual life;
- Provide Pastoral Care for all in our churches and communities;
- Provide resources, training and ideas to enable us to learn more about our faith and to make it more accessible to others
- Create opportunities for those outside the life of the Church and those who only come to our social gatherings, to learn more about the Christian faith.
- Provide opportunities for mentoring and developing new Christians, including opportunities for children and young people to learn more about the Christian faith and be nurtured in it.

Jesus said "Teach them to obey everything I have commanded you" Mt 28.20

Service

The Church exists to be a good neighbour to all people in need, showing compassion and empathy, and to challenge injustice.

We will:

- 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.
- Prioritise keeping in communication with people, especially the lonely, to build good relationships with those in need;
- Provide safe, welcoming, warm, well-maintained, disability and child-friendly, inclusive premises to give space and opportunity for church and community activities;
- 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 and care for the environment in the local area, the nation and the wider world.

Jesus said 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' Mk 12.31

Evangelism

The Church exists to make more followers of Jesus Christ

We will:

- Guard against being apologetic about our faith by encouraging people, through providing more opportunities to explore the Bible and Christian faith, to have more confidence to share it with others;
- Engage with young and old in mission activities both inside and outside our buildings and witness 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;
- Provide opportunities, possibly ecumenically, for those of all ages outside the church to explore the Bible and Christian faith;
- Develop greater understanding of those in our community who come from other cultures and faiths;
- Enable people to be able to pray with and for those who are looking for hope.

Jesus said 'Go and make disciples.' Mt 28.1

To fulfil these priorities, as a Circuit we will

1. Encourage the development of new vision and new ways of being church, relevant for the 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 in the Circuit;
2. 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 31 August 2020;
3. Encourage work that is ecumenical, people centred, flexible and innovative;
4. Pursue a Circuit Mission Strategy for 2019-22 – see *Mission Strategy* below;
5. Review this mission statement in 2021.

Note on Methodism, Charity Commission and Legal issues

There are certain legal and constitutional issues to be acknowledged:

- Trustees must ensure that they always act within the Charity's powers and objects and in accordance with its rules and procedures.
- Trustees must ensure that they comply with Charity Law and should as a matter of best practice comply with and follow any applicable codes of practice.
- Trustees of Registered Charities are regulated by the Charity Commission and must ensure that annual accounts, reports and returns are filed within the applicable deadlines and that they comply with the Charity Commission orders and rules.
- Trustees must also comply with other requirements of the Law (e.g. property law, HM revenue and Customs etc.)

Circuit Mission Strategy 2019-22

The Circuit Mission Strategy is to deploy its human, financial and property resources in the most effective way possible to develop and sustain the mission of the Circuit. This will happen in two ways:

1. promoting the four aspects of our Methodist calling to worship, learning & caring, service and evangelism through activities working together in and across churches (Cross Circuit structure of four groups);
2. providing leadership and pastoral oversight of individual churches (Sectional and cluster structure).

This strategy is intended to help us put more time, energy and skills into growing the 'work of the Church' across the Circuit. The Circuit is not simply an administrative structure or a layer in the hierarchy. The Circuit is what we call the shared life of the 20 Chapels in relationship with one another. As S.O. 500 says, our shared life together is the "Primary Unit" for "Mission, mutual encouragement and help. Seeing the Circuit as our shared life together is a change in thinking for many of us. It will change our attitudes, the way we talk about the work of our local church and the Circuit, and require a change in the way we think - no longer an "us and them" of Chapel and Circuit, but an "us and us together". The Strategy is based on the assumption that the work of the Church (Worship, Learning & Caring, Service, and Evangelism) should be directed and resourced in our life together, by the Circuit, rather than just by an individual Chapel. To make this happen the practicalities of our working together will be re-shaped, and the Strategy outlines how this will happen.

1. Cross Circuit activities (CCA)				
	1 WORSHIP	2 LEARNING/CARING	3 SERVICE	4 EVANGELISM
Staffing	Worship Resource Group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Circuit Steward (Jenny T) • 1 Presbyter (Rev Paul) • Local preacher and worship leader reps • Musicians 	Learning and Caring Group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Circuit Steward (Liz F) • 1 Presbyter (Rev Stephen) • Learning and Caring reps from churches 	Community Service Group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Circuit Steward • 1 lay pastor (Pastor John) • Children/Family Worker (Sue B) • Care Home Pastor (Ann A) • Children/Youth work, MWIB, AfC etc Committee reps 	Evangelism Group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Circuit Steward (Lyn H) • 1 Presbyter (Rev Dr David) • reps from chapels, • reps from Property Committee • reps from local preachers and children's workers
A Mission Development Officer to implement the strategy across all callings, which have links with each other				
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training in more varied and flexible forms of worship in different spaces and occasions e.g. Messy Church, Café Church, Healing • Music workshops • Creation of Worship Band • Technology in worship workshops, e.g. screens, recording, music • Leading worship events • More joint services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing pastoral care provision • Training courses, e.g. leading prayer, discipling, understanding other cultures • Provision of opportunities e.g. Bible Studies e.g. Issues evenings e.g. Methodism e.g. Quiet Days in selected centres, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation and Planning links with community • Training in and promoting local/global issues • Schools work • Helping/advising/running Youth Clubs, Messy church Holiday clubs, Toddler Groups Coffee Mornings, Drop ins Women's/Men's groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organising special events, occasions and activities for all ages to grow the church • Developing a Methodist 'face on the town' • Training courses to help to improve our spaces effectively in order to 'tell our story' and bring people to Christ
Financial Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost of Mission Development Officer to implement and co-ordinate this work, responsible to the CLT and Superintendent • Cost of publicity, materials, equipment, speakers, transport and improvement of property 			

2. Sectional work (SW)				
	Section 1 Rev Paul	Section 2 Rev David	Section 3 Rev Stephen	Section 4 Pastor John
Role	Local Church leadership and administration	Local Church leadership and administration	Local Church leadership and administration	Local Church leadership and administration
	Worship	Worship	Worship	Worship
	Pastoral care	Pastoral care	Pastoral care	Pastoral care
Staffing	1 Presbyter	1 Presbyter	1 Presbyter	1 Lay Pastor
	Support from three lay pastoral assistants, including Carole T			
	Local church leadership	Local church leadership (including Tony at Polgooth)	Local church leadership	Local church leadership
Churches in the section	Bugle, Stenalees, Gunwen, Whitemoor, Roche, Nanpean, Bethel, St Dennis* (*jointly with Pastor John for a transitional period)	Mt Charles, St Andrews, Polgooth, Indian Queens	Carclaze, Tregrehan, Lostwithiel, Par, Leek Seed, Tywardreath	St Johns, Trinity <i>Treviscoe</i> , <i>St Stephens</i> (no buildings/societies)
Church clusters (grouped by factors including existing links, geography, parishes, sometimes ministerial oversight etc.)	Cluster 1 = Indian Queens/St Dennis; Cluster 2 = Whitemoor/Roche/Nanpean; Cluster 3 = Bugle/Stenalees/Gunwen; Cluster 4 = St Andrews/Polgooth; Cluster 5 = Lostwithiel/Par/Tywardreath/St Blazey/Tregrehan; Cluster 6 = Mt Charles/Carclaze/Bethel/St John's/Trinity.			
Local strategies	Each cluster to devise mission strategy for its area using the Cross-Circuit activities, including bids for property schemes and exploring opportunities to work ecumenically. Clusters may also choose to work together, in parts. Churches and clusters to take an active part in Churches Together locally e.g. Roche, Mevagissey, Par, St Austell, St Dennis etc.			

3. Changes involved

- Employment of additional staff: a Mission Development Officer, two Lay Pastoral Assistants working with existing staff
- Amending the structure of Circuit management and meetings
- Training and financing
- More joint working (eg Single Sunday evening (Circuit) service in Central area rotating throughout the year), with churches working in clusters, and working ecumenically where appropriate. This would allow churches to form single societies with multiple worship sites, if desired, in the long run.

4. Circuit Administration

- Lyn H remains the Circuit Treasurer, Pastor John will continue as the Circuit Administrator with Debbie as the Administration Officer. Their work will include Circuit finance, Circuit property, charity commission work, producing the Circuit directory, distribution of the Circuit Plan, sending out Circuit information, data protection, etc.
- The Circuit Property Committee will continue to assist with Property issues, including Annabelle Coad, the Circuit Manse Steward.

5. Financing the strategy

Funds raised from the sale of Trenovissick Rd manse to be used to finance the strategy, after meeting the reserves policy – see Circuit Budget 2019-20. (In the long run funds from the sale of Treviscoe may also be available.)