

South Kent Circuit Mission Plan: June 2022

The calling of the South Kent Methodist Circuit is to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission.

We will use the circuit's resources to welcome everyone and to:

- Increase awareness of God's presence and celebrate God's love for all through prayer and worship for all ages; in our churches, on-line and in other places
- Help people to grow and learn as Christians through mutual support, care and by offering opportunities for discussion and reflection on matters of faith
- Be a good neighbour to people in need, showing compassion and empathy and challenging injustice. Caring for the environment in our local churches, communities and beyond.
- Proclaim the good news of Christ, guard against being apologetic about our faith and develop in confidence in sharing it with others.

In all these things we will seek to work in partnership with others wherever possible.

Circuit Mission Strategy 2022/2023

Undergirding all things in prayer, to develop and fulfil our priorities as a circuit we will:

- Focus on the development of new ways of being church relevant for the times we are living in, through continued analysis of the circuit's resources of people, property and finance, and use them in ways that will further the work of God across the circuit. This will have a particular focus at Sandgate Road in Folkestone.
- Support each of the circuit churches to discern their mission and strategy for the future, encourage working together across the circuit.
- Create loving communities characterised by welcome, generosity, hospitality, kindness and respect. Embrace diversity and creativity.
- Continue to encourage work with children and young people
- Give generously, with thought and prayer, of our time and money for the work of God in the church and the world
- Ensure our safeguarding system, procedures and training are in good order
- Expand and explore our ecumenical work:
within our LEPs at Hamstreet and the United Church in Ashford, working with the Church of England at St Michael's, Hythe and at the John Wesley School Ashford, and working with Churches Together and other community groups across the whole circuit.
- Develop pioneer ministry in new housing areas, particularly through the work of our New Housing Missioner in the Chilmington area of Ashford working alongside the Methodist South East District and with the United Reformed Church
- Encourage and develop our work with refugees and asylum seekers, particularly at Folkestone, Sandgate Road and Cade Road, UCA.
- Work alongside and support the work of MHA at Grace Court, Folkestone and beyond

2022/23 (and on-going)	Task	People	Aim
	Continue to oversee pioneer project and assess wider circuit needs in areas of new housing	CLT, District & partners, Support group meeting regularly with TL	On-going Consider succession planning for NHM role and on-going funding beyond the initial 5 years.
	Continue to work with probationer minister through the second year of probation	CLT, circuit stewards and local church members	Continue working with Worship Development group for probationer and buddies from circuit stewards for all ministers.
	Consider stationing needs for 2023 and on-going	Circuit stewards, CIC, Superintendent, CLT	Staff team with healthy work load working alongside lay employees and volunteers to serve the needs of the circuit in worship, service, pastoral care and working alongside local communities.
	Be aware of areas of deprivation within our circuit and intentionally work towards the relief of poverty in these areas	CLT and Circuit meeting Local managing trustees Church members Other local partners	Encourage the development of work which is outward facing into the community, encourage support and social groups, e.g. for families, dementia support, food banks. For example, Family, Food and Fun at UCA in Kennington, dementia awareness groups in Hythe and Headcorn, welcoming those resettling in our areas such as Ukrainian refugees
	Continue to look with enquiring eyes and prayerful hope at the circumstances of local churches, their opportunities and challenges	As above as on-going work for CLT, local trustees and circuit meeting. Offer particular support to churches experiencing transition.	Circuit continuing to reshape according to priorities and developing vision for the future Review of governance arrangements for Methodist churches according to Conference decisions on oversight and trusteeship Engaging with feasibility study at Sandgate Road and developing vision for new premise and possible housing.
	Developing worship both in person, online and in other places	CLT, Local preachers and Worship Leaders, 'digital stewards', local church members	Developing inter-generational worship On-going digital presence for worship Training and development opportunities Engagement with Bible Month Continuing fellowship via zoom and other electronic means, e.g. Thursday group, podcast, live streaming services. Encourage worship and activities that bring joy!

			Encourage worship throughout the week, not just on Sundays.
	On-going work with church mission statements	Local church trustees and church members	Church mission statement in place for each circuit church
	Continue to analyse circuit resources of property and finance to ensure these are fit for purpose Our buildings to be used for the community as well as by the community	Superintendent, Circuit Finance officer and Circuit Treasurer Property and manse group	Audited accounts for all churches On-going budget setting Quinquennials carried out when due and work completed Appoint circuit property officer to replace previous employee. Appropriate letting and safeguarding arrangements in place. Well maintained buildings which provide safe, warm, disability and child-friendly premises which give space and opportunity for church and community activities. Identify buildings that might be used more and those we need to let go of in order to flourish elsewhere. When buildings are sold ensure local presence within smaller communities, e.g. by renting rooms, house fellowship and pastoral care
	Developing opportunities for learning and growth in discipleship	Staff team CLT Learning Network	Ongoing Circuit Advent and Lent courses, continuing on-line and in person when possible Develop further prayer and home groups Further opportunities for training and development, encouraging all staff and lay volunteers to engage in training and development Consider training local lay pastors within the circuit who will assist with pastoral care.
	Exploring new ways of working with children and young people	CLT and local trustees Explore training and development opportunities	Continued development of Café and Messy Church provision, particularly at St Andrew's and JWS Support Charing Methodist church with new post to support children and families. Consider children and families worker for the circuit to assist across the churches. Developing SKY youth group and children's activities

			Continue to strengthen the link with the John Wesley School in Ashford through Foundation governors, School visitor, circuit assistance. Make links with other local schools.
	Continue to review digital presence, including provision for on-line worship, social media and circuit web-site	CLT Possible outside professional assistance	Accessible worship provision on-line as well as in person Accessible social media presence and maintaining newly developed circuit web-site. Develop outward facing Facebook page as well as circuit group, set up other social media accounts.
	Continue to support and encourage circuit ordained and lay staff	Superintendent, CLT Support groups (lay) Explore and support training and development opportunities	Well-supported circuit staff
	Develop circuit mission group	Circuit mission group feeding back to CLT	Working on eco-church initiatives Working on our response to the refugee crisis and how we might be a hospitable local presence.
	Review circuit mission strategy	Superintendent, CLT and circuit meeting	Annual reflection on mission On-going at staff, CLT and circuit meetings