

Growing disciples with deep roots in Jesus

National Forest East Methodist Circuit Five Year Mission Plan 2023 – 2028 (To be reviewed annually).

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 through evangelism, service, worship, learning and caring.

In the National Forest East Methodist Circuit we will:

- Grow new disciples alongside nurturing and caring for those already part of our church communities.
- Continue to develop work with specific groups: children and young people, those in the 3rd and 4th Age, those who are housebound and those on the margins.
- Engage in mission and evangelism developing new places for new people alongside supporting and enabling existing churches to engage in mission and evangelism.
- Ensure worship across the circuit is the best that it can be, with a wide variety of worshipping styles available.
- Commit to engaging with issues of social justice and inclusion.
- Develop an awareness of being part of a wider Methodist Church and engage ecumenically where possible.
- Be careful stewards of our resources, considering how we prioritise the use of our money, our buildings and our ministers (both lay and ordained) to support mission rather than maintenance.

Priorities for 2023 – 2024

- Enable churches to focus on reviewing and writing their Mission Plans.
- Appoint a Mission Enabler to work alongside churches and enable new opportunities for mission and outreach.
- Appoint a worker to develop pastoral and missional ministry among the older retired members of the church communities.
- Engage with Bible Month worship resources across the Circuit. (June 2023)
- Run the 'Everyone an Evangelist' course across the Circuit and provide opportunity for the sharing of ideas and wisdom. (May/June 2023)
- *Employ a 'New Projects Researcher' to help the Circuit explore and discern where new opportunities for mission and evangelism might be located. (April/May 2023)*
- Enable churches to upgrade their media and projection facilities used in worship.
- Create a Circuit wide database of those who are unable to attend worship and produce a paper based weekly service that can be distributed to them. (January 2023)
- *Employ a 'Scattered Communities Worker' to enable those who are members of churches that have closed or are closing are supported and have appropriate pastoral care. (April/May 2023)*
- Review the structure of the circuit, taking into account where there are new opportunities for mission and the reduction in the number of churches within the circuit.