

Circuit Strategy: Spring 2026 Overview

Winchester, Eastleigh and Romsey Circuit

Our Circuit Vision

To enable us all to worship God and, in the power of the Holy Spirit, proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ and together, play our part in the building of Christ's kingdom.

Our Circuit Mission is to:

- **Support** the local Churches as they share the Good News of Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit, recognising the diversity of our churches and their communities.
 - **Encourage** the growth of the community of Christ's followers through mission and service.
 - **Steward** our resources wisely to create a climate of sustainability.
 - **Connect** our church communities, enabling them to build a strong local identity, while recognising our shared life across the Circuit.
-

Our Strategic Priorities

To achieve our mission, we commit to supporting:

1. **Growth:** Reaching out into our communities to engage with people to invite them to follow Christ.
 2. **Discipleship:** Engaging in ongoing learning, fellowship, worship and prayer to grow in faith.
 3. **Service:** Through equipping churches to transform their communities by responding to local needs.
 4. **Inclusivity:** Offering a radical welcome where no one is excluded, meeting people at their point of need.
 5. **Innovation:** Actively exploring new styles of worship and mission appropriate to local settings.
 6. **Collaboration:** Recognizing the shared responsibilities between Ministers, Local Pastors, Lay Staff, Circuit Officers, Stewards, Local Preachers, and Worship Leaders.
 7. **Resource Sharing:** Using our human, financial, and physical assets effectively and sustainably.
 8. **Safety:** The promotion of a good safeguarding culture ensuring all measures meet Methodist Church requirements.
-

Circuit Responsibilities and Actions:

1. People: Strengthening the Body of Christ means our Circuit will focus on:

- **Intergenerational:** Our current age profile does not reflect wider society. We will prioritise our Circuit resources for intergenerational ministry, with a specific focus on reaching young families.

- **Flexible Ministry:** Our staff team (ordained and lay) will be deployed flexibly, allowing expertise to be directed toward the Circuit's highest priorities.
- **Wellbeing & Development:** We are committed to being a "good employer," providing staff with annual appraisals, training, and strong wellbeing support.
- **Community Presence:** We encourage churches to deepen links with local schools, surgeries, and community hubs to increase the visibility of our work.

2. Churches: In supporting local witness the Circuit will offer:

- **Leadership:** While each church is responsible for its own governance and buildings, the **Circuit Leadership Team (CLT)** (supported by Lay Workers) provides a strategic overview and expert advice.
- **Specialist Support:** The CLT offers guidance on mission strategy, building repairs, and environmental transitions (eco-friendliness).
- **Worship & Learning:** We encourage the use of Local Preachers and Worship Leaders to help churches diversify their worship styles and deepen discipleship.
- **Ecumenical Partnership:** We actively seek to work with other denominations to further God's Kingdom in our region.

3. Finance: the Circuit will invest in Mission through:

- **Stewardship:** Financial resources are tools for the Kingdom. In a climate of rising costs and fluctuating membership, careful forward planning is essential for all Managing Trustees.
- **Income from Lettings:** We will look to maximize income for Mission by using lettings from available Manses to support the funding for 3 Circuit Lay Pastors roles.
- **Strategic Investment:** Circuit funds (including those from closed churches) are available to support growth. We welcome "imaginative investment" grant requests — especially those reaching people currently outside the church. [See Grant Policies for further details and requirements.]

4. Sustainability: Future-Proofing our Mission means the Circuit will focus on:

- **Creation Care:** As stewards of God's creation, we are committed to the Methodist goal of reaching **Net Zero by 2030**.
- **Data-Driven Action:** Churches are encouraged to monitor energy data to reduce waste and manage costs effectively.
- **Sustainable Infrastructure:** When replacing heating or equipment, churches should consult professionals to find the most sustainable solutions. Circuit grants are available to assist with these transitions to enable our buildings to be fit for their purposes.

Conclusion

For the Winchester, Eastleigh, and Romsey Circuit to flourish, we must work collaboratively. This requires us to be courageous in our priorities, flexible with our resources, and rooted in our shared call to Ministry and Mission.

"Let's work together to play our part in the growing of Christ's Kingdom."

This strategy, and related specific actions for any given period of time are subject to at least annual review. NEXT REVIEW: Spring 2027 or sooner if required.