



The Methodist Church

GUILDFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT 36/07 MISSION STATEMENT

Ministers work as a team, meeting regularly for consultation and prayer, along with a supportive leadership team, encouraging a circuit spirit through circuit services, events and training. There shall be a quarterly circuit publication.

The Circuit aims to enable our churches to be dynamic worshipping communities with an emphasis upon:-

- (1) Prayer & Outreach.
- (2) Proclaiming the Good News.
- (3) Issues of justice and peace and the integrity of creation.
- (4) Serving the local neighbourhoods.
- (5) Offering appropriate pastoral support.
- (6) Working collaboratively with other churches and agencies.

September 2007

GUILDFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT 36/07 POLICY STATEMENT

The Guildford Methodist Circuit lives out the calling of the Methodist Church and will continue to do so by maintaining support for the eight Churches in the Circuit, and looking after its Ministers and maintaining its Manses. It will do this in a number of ways.

The Circuit must always keep under review:

- The number of Circuit staff, lay and ordained, paid and unpaid, and how they are deployed.
- The viability of each local church in ministry, mission and strategic terms and be prepared to help and provide resources to those churches where necessary and appropriate.
- The need to take into account the particular relationship between the Methodist Circuit and the United Reformed Church with regard to the provision of a United Reformed manse at Cranleigh and the provision of ministry to the United Reformed Church at Wonersh.
- The need to encourage and train people for the many forms of ministry and service in the church.
- The need to encourage and provide training for people in churches so that they are able to fulfil all legal and church requirements.
- The need to assist churches in developing, monitoring and regularly reviewing Church Policies (e.g. Health & Safety, Safeguarding, Fire Safety).
- The need to assist churches (where applicable) in the recruitment and employment of staff in consultation with District Officers.

The Circuit will maintain its identity by:

- Maintaining a common purpose, particularly by implementing Circuit events and services; Circuit co-ordinated news and activity; and a Circuit Web Site.
- Developing effective administration and communication within the Circuit.
- Aiming to create a Circuit team of gifts, skills and abilities that can be shared.

The Circuit acknowledges its role in enabling all members of the Methodist Church to fulfil their calling to worship, learning and caring, service and evangelism. It will do this by:

1. The Circuit will encourage worship by:

- Upholding the importance and value of worship.
- Encouraging congregations to actively participate in worship.
- Enabling churches to worship in a variety of styles which will encourage people from the community to share in worship.

2. The Circuit will encourage discipleship (learning and caring) by:

- Leading people to faith in Jesus and then nurturing them in that faith.
- Encouraging people to meet together for study, prayer and fellowship.
- Training people to lead such groups.
- Encouraging churches to provide age relevant teaching.
- Encouraging one another to discover our calling, recognise our gifts and develop them.

3. The Circuit will encourage service by:

- Encouraging people to be good neighbours in their community
- Encouraging people to challenge injustice
- Encouraging people to use their resources to support the Church in its mission in the world.

4. The Circuit will encourage mission (evangelism) by:

- Providing training so that we can all express our faith effectively to others.
- Encouraging churches to consider their mission in particular, relevant to the needs of those around them.

**In working out the Circuit Mission Statement the Circuit Policy will be
(acknowledging some duplication!)**

- (1) Prayer and Outreach
 - Uphold the importance and value of prayer.
 - Encourage people to integrate prayer into every aspect of their daily lives.
 - Encourage churches to include prayer as a vital and natural part of its life.
- (2) Proclaiming the Good News
 - Provide training so that we can all express our faith effectively to others.
 - Encourage churches to consider mission relevant to the needs of those around them.
- (3) Issues of justice and peace and the integrity of creation.
 - Encourage churches to look beyond their own needs and doors.
 - Provide help and support to churches in assessing the needs of their community.
 - Ensure, by providing information and materials, that people in local churches are involved in and not complacent on justice and peace issues.
 - Encourage churches to be aware of environmental issues.
 - Encourage churches to support the world wide church.
- (4) Serving the local neighbourhoods.
 - Encourage everyone to be welcoming to all those who come among us.
 - Ensure our premises are open and attractive, available to all, with easy access.
 - Encourage churches to provide notice boards and web sites with accurate information.
- (5) Offering appropriate pastoral support.
 - Encourage everyone to be involved in pastoral care.
 - Provide training for pastoral care.
- (6) Working collaboratively with other churches and agencies.
 - Build stronger relationships with ecumenical and secular partners. Examples of this are the two local covenants at Godalming (the 2nd. January 1977 covenant between the Methodist and United Reformed Churches, and the 3rd. December 2006 covenant between Godalming United Church and the Church of England Farncombe & Godalming Group Ministry - Ss Peter & Paul and St Mark's in the Godalming Parish and St John the Evangelist Farncombe).
 - Be in dialogue with other faith communities.

The Circuit acknowledges the need to wait for the Methodist Church South-East District to report back to Circuits on 'Mapping a Way Forward' regrouping for mission, following discussions of neighbouring Circuits, instigated by the District and the need then to revisit and review this policy.

Produced by the Rev'd Alan Thorpe approved by the Circuit Meeting March 2009.