



The Methodist Church in Sheffield

Circuit Meeting News

Our Circuit Meeting met on 12th September at Hillsborough Trinity.

With Rev Romeo Pedro on sabbatical, Rev Debora Marschner opened our meeting, speaking of how we can best reflect on but not be burdened by stories of our past.

We were pleased to hear that Jason Colley has been appointed as **youth worker** for Hillsborough, Wisewood and Wesley Hall – a new role we approved at our June meeting. Three young people are starting **internships** at Hillsborough, Wesley Hall and Broomhill as part of the district ONE Programme scheme. This offers training and mentoring in addition to their bespoke local roles.

Six more churches are seeking grants from a City Council scheme to reduce their **carbon footprint**: Dore, Hillsborough Trinity, Millhouses, St Andrews Psalter Lane, Stephen Hill and Stocksbridge Christian Centre. We agreed to provide short term loans to these churches in case of delays between paying contractors and receiving their grants.

We awarded a grant to **MHA Communities** to start a new lunch club in Gleadless, building on successful partnerships elsewhere in the circuit.

We noted with sadness that worship in its current form is ending at **Pitsmoor** and **Apperknowle**. As part of supporting *casting the net on the other side*, the meeting approved membership of the new **Property Development Group**, which will explore future missional, community and financial value of these premises before proposing next steps.

We approved (subject to raising enough funds through grants) redevelopment of the former chapel at **Broomhill** to include an **imaginative play centre** and other facilities. We intend this to both meet community needs and become the venue for a **new Christian community**. This vision has been shaped by meeting with local families, potential partners, and learning from Sam's Space Methodist soft play centre in Firth Park.

Rev Jill Pullan currently remains unable to work, but had written to the meeting giving thanks for improvement in Jeremy Pullan's health: "faith, hope & love have brought us safe thus far". We expressed our gratitude to Rev Maurice Stafford and all others who have taken on **additional responsibilities** during Jill's absence. We will be seeking a new presbyter to be based in the **Team A** area from September 2025 through the Connexional stationing process.

Rev Carla Quenet from the Methodist Learning Network is starting refreshed **ongoing learning opportunities** for our local preachers and worship leaders, starting at the next LWP meeting in November.

Thanks was expressed to churches who are giving more than their *Generous Giving* assessment guidance. But we also noted that some continue not to be able to meet this target, and therefore our **regular income is still not enough** to fund our core operations, including ministerial staffing. The Finance Group will explore with these churches whether there are ways they could be helped to contribute more. **If we can together increase the level of assessment contributions**, the circuit will be able to support more of the requests for local missional initiatives that we expect to receive in future meetings.

Sheffield Circuit has become a member of **Let's end Poverty**, a broad coalition of likeminded organisations working together to keep reduction of structural poverty at the forefront of political discourse. Let's End Poverty receives some national administrative support from Methodism. Churches and members are encouraged to get involved.

We sent a "memorial" to this summer's national Methodist Conference asking Methodism to publicly express solidarity with Daoud Nassar and family, who have welcomed countless visitors to Palestine through the **Tent of Nations**. This request was strongly affirmed, and the Secretary of Conference has made representation to the UK and Israeli governments. Individuals **campaigning for justice** on this issue are encouraged to refer to national Methodist and circuit statements – contact Jenny Bywaters via the circuit office for further details.

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