Ripon & Lower Dales Methodist Circuit

With God in the city, towns, villages, and rural areas

**Mission Plan**

**“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.”**

**In this, and in partnership with others wherever possible, the Ripon and Lower Dales Methodist Circuit will concentrate its prayers, resources, imagination and commitments on this priority:**

**“To Celebrate our diversity of rural ministry, knowing God where we are and to make God known to others.”**

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| **Vision** | **Priority vision for 2021/22** | **Priority action for 2021/22** |
| *The Church exists to increase awareness of God’s presence and celebrate God’s love.* |
| **Worship**The circuit seeks to:* encourage and enable vibrant, relevant and God-centred worship.
* develop accessible and innovative worship.
* resource high quality worship in a variety of forms (onsite, online, live, recorded, written, phone) and providing regular ongoing training for preachers, worship leaders and those leading own arrangements.
 | **Priority vision** * To promote Hybrid model of church through using appropriate media, such as printed written services, live streaming.
* develop accessible and innovative worship which is targeted at specific groups based on age/expressions.
 | **Priority action** We will do this by:* continuing learning and development sessions with the worship leaders and preachers meeting.
* continuing to develop online worship and progress live streaming worship services to increase accessibility.
* supporting churches with purchasing and/or using technology to aid and develop more accessible worship.
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| *The Church exists to help people to grow and learn as Christians, through mutual support & care.* |
| **Learning and Caring** The circuit seeks to:* nurture communities of Christ centred pastoral care, by making sure no one is forgotten or excluded.
* encourage positive engagement with wider Methodism and utilise its resources to help people explore, grow, and learn as Christians.
* use best practice in all our work, ensuring best safeguarding practice and keeping everyone safe with GDPR.
* build confidence in our rural churches through encouraging pastoral charge.
 | **Priority vision** * To see an increase in the mutual support and care across the circuit of churches and across its membership.
* To provide imaginative means of support to help each church with required administrative tasks.
* build confidence in our rural churches through encouraging pastoral charge.
 | **Priority action** * Encourage creative engagement with A Methodist Way of Life. Provision of study sessions in October.
* Develop contextually suitable small groups to facilitate safe nurturing environments to help people grow and learn as Christians.
* To identify and provide training for those serving in and through the circuit of churches.
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| *The Church exists to be a good neighbour to people in need and to challenge injustice.* |
| **Service** The circuit seeks to:* encourage positive engagement with wider Methodism and utilise its resources to raise awareness of issues of injustice and facilitate active engagement.
* better appreciate the value of work by JPIT (joint public issues team) for increasing local church participation in challenging injustice and working for peace.
 | **Priority vision** * Celebrating our ecumenical relationships and local ecumenical partnership to be better serve people in need and challenge injustice.
 | **Priority action** * To promote and engage Walking with Micah project.
* Continuing to develop local social action and care groups.
* In response to the Covid 19 pandemic, to identify needs and work alongside local communities in partnership to transform, revive and build society.
* supporting Methodist charities such as All We Can.
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| *The Church exists to make more followers of Jesus Christ.* |
| **Evangelism** The circuit seeks to:* build confidence in all our churches through encouraging pastoral charge.
* encourage all our churches to look outwards to their communities.
* actively engage in partnership with others for evangelistic projects.
 | **Priority vision** * build confidence in all our churches through encouraging pastoral charge.
* To nurture a deepening of discipleship within its current membership to build confidence in talking of God, sharing faith naturally and showing Jesus.
* To create opportunities for people to inquire and explore the Christian faith in appropriate ways.
 | **Priority action** * Delivering of ‘Discipling Presence’ Three sessions planned during September and October.
* build upon good works such as soft play; pop up shop, solo lunches, chaplaincy, J.A.M (Jesus and Me), Sunshine Corner.
* Targeting with support new mission projects in our rural churches and places.
* Ongoing engagement with ecumenical partnership in the evangelistic project Try Praying. Exploring other similar evangelist projects.
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| *Enabling all churches in their witness and ministry for who and where we are.* |
| **Resources** The circuit seeks to:* Enabling all churches to be adequately resourced through imaginative staffing.
* empower the use of gifts/skills of all people within the life of the circuit.
* develop the mission and ministries gathering as a steering group.
 | **Priority vision** * To develop new posts in response to identified needs to enable all churches to be effective in their witness and ministry.
* To encourage pioneering ministry within its circuit staff team to best meet people where they are.
 | **Priority action** * To advertise and appoint new local pastor role.
* To identify and provide training for those serving in and through the circuit of churches.
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