

Love God, Love Others, Make Disciples

DRAFT **Nottingham and Derby** **District Policy** *September 2020*



Our Calling as the Nottingham and Derby Methodist District is to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out our discipleship in worship and mission, doing this through Evangelism, Worship, Service, Learning and Caring.

The Nottingham and Derby District is called to be a growing, evangelistic, inclusive Church of flourishing Gospel people who speak of, listen for, and live out the goodness of a God for All. It is our intention as a District to value every human being as part of God's creation and the whole people of God. At the heart of every Methodist community is a deep sense of the place of flourishing, welcome, hospitality and openness which demonstrates the nature of God's grace and love for all.

Through this Policy and the accompanying Development Plan the District team will enable every circuit and church to write and implement a living mission plan to be rooted in God and growing naturally in courage and life.

A Evangelism *To make more followers of Jesus Christ.*

Over the next five years we will resource Circuits to increase the number of disciples with the number of new members outweighing natural loss in churches and circuits through varying styles of evangelism, New Places for New People, pioneer ministry, fresh expressions and church planting.

In 2020/2021 we will:

1. resource innovative digital evangelism.
2. Enable new places for new people to grow;
3. support and grow existing team of young evangelists;
4. promote an invitational mindset partnering with the National Weekend of Invitation, and build confidence to talk naturally of God using resources from the Connexion and other organisations;
5. support opportunities to reach out into new housing areas.

In the light of the above what will your circuit and church do?

B Worship *To increase awareness of God's presence and to celebrate God's love.*

We will enable people to be centred on God

In 2020/2021 we will

1. resource diverse styles and opportunities for passionate worship;
2. organise District worship and Bible events that help people be centred in God;
3. encourage worship as a way of life;
4. promote daily acts of worship;
5. promote youth led worship around the District;

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6. encourage older people to use their gifts in worship as we aim for a multi-generational Church;
7. encourage our circuits to embrace the internet and create online Christian community to explore and expand faith;

In the light of the above what will your circuit and church do?

C Service *To be a good neighbour to people in need and to challenge injustice.*

We will challenge circuits to align themselves with the Mission of God by being outward looking in their communities, building on the biblical connection between evangelism and social justice, to serve needs around them, and to seek justice.

In 2020/2021 we will

1. promote partnership models of community engagement;
2. work alongside people experiencing poverty and on the margins for the wellbeing of society;
3. encourage Chaplaincy in different sectors;
4. set up a District Global Partnership Group, using experience and gifts from the World Church, to promote diversity and understanding in the District.

In the light of the above what will your circuit and church do?

D Learning and Caring *To help people to grow and learn as Christians, through mutual support and care.*

Together with the Learning Network we will resource circuits to nurture an attitude of intentional faith development across the District.

In 2020/2021 we will

1. promote the Methodist way of life;
2. commit to wellbeing and equip our churches to put into practice the mental health manifesto;
3. resource creative ways of developing spirituality and engaging with the Bible;
4. promote safeguarding good practice and host and resource a District Safeguarding Conference.
5. provide funding for discipleship and leadership development for children and young people.
6. encourage and equip churches to identify new local preachers and worship leaders in the District through the production of publicity material and the organising of a District Vocations Day.
7. organise District Vocations Consultations

In the light of the above what will your circuit and church do?

We will underpin the whole policy with the practices of radical hospitality, passionate worship, intentional faith development, risk-taking mission and service, and extravagant generosity throughout the District.

We encourage everyone in the District to take account of and to be guided by this District Policy.

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