**Macclesfield Methodist Circuit**

*Mission Statement*

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit is a group of six Methodist churches, varying in size from small rural chapels to large town centre churches. As of October 2017, we have 399 members and an average of 279 people worshipping each Sunday, in addition to a wide range of mid-week worship services and other activities. We seek to find and fulfil our place in the mission of God to the world.

The role of the Circuit is to develop approaches to staffing and the use of the resources in supporting the churches as we live out our calling.

The mission of Macclesfield Methodist Circuit is to seek to order our life so that we engage fully with the *Five Marks of Mission* in everything we do. The circuit will give attention to these marks as it considers the complex issues of staffing, grant making and overseeing Circuit initiatives.

**1 Tell.** *To Proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom*

 Our priorities:

* To offer a variety of worship styles accessible to all people
* To consider offering worship outside Church buildings
* To explore areas of the circuit which are not presently reached by the worship life of the circuit, especially Bollington.
* To make effective use of our CFW workers in exploring work with demographic ‘gaps’ in our churches.
* To ensure adequate ministerial cover across the circuit.

**2. Teach.** *To teach, baptise and nurture new believers*

 Our priorities:

* To explore ways in which the circuit might resource the nurture of Christian people
* To equip Local Preaches and Worship Leaders in their work
* To support the work of the CFWs as they work with ‘new people’

**3. Tend.** *To respond to Human need by loving service*

 Our priorities

* To ensure that the churches of the circuit continue to be welcoming and inclusive communities for all people.
* To provide training and support for class leaders and pastoral visitors in local churches
* To enact and review Safeguarding polices at circuit and local church level

**4. Transform.** *To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation*

 Our priorities

* To engage with political processes locally and nationally, and to support those active in this work.
* To play our part in the activities and governance of Hope in North East Cheshire
* To highlight and support the work of organisations such as MHA and Mission in Britain, which help us keep an outward focus.
* To root out prejudice in ourselves.

**5. Treasure.** *To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, to sustain and renew the life of the world.*

Our priorities

* To consider the carbon footprint of churches and manses
* To promote fair trade in the life of the circuit

**Positives to celebrate**

* Circuit feels largely united
	+ Good relationship between churches
	+ CFW forcing us to be more circuit minded
	+ Ministers are working across boundaries more often
* Good working relationships
	+ CLT
	+ Ministers/ CFW
* Communication
	+ Magazine
* Six “stable” congregations in separate communities
	+ Well spread
	+ Not geographically far from each other

**Challenges to consider**

* Opportunities for growth?
	+ CFW (capacity etc)
	+ Pastoral workers (with older people?)
	+ Fresh Expressions (Bollington etc)
* Questions of Money
	+ Assessment levels
	+ How do we use reserves?
	+ What should assessment cover?
	+ Atholl manse (in the longer term) – rent/sell?
* Staffing
	+ For the foreseeable future the circuit will only have two minsters
	+ CFW long term?
	+ Other pastoral workers?
	+ Local church “pastors”?
	+ Contingencies! If a minster is “pulled out”
* Circuit Boundaries
	+ We should expect conversations
	+ Are there positives to be gained?
	+ Can we survive and thrive as we are?
* Ecumenical relationships
	+ Should we be exploring more work together (Gawsworth/St James, Langley/Sutton etc)