

Circuit Meeting

Minutes of the Meeting held on

Tuesday 2nd June 2026, 7:30pm at Staveley Methodist Church

These minutes should be read in conjunction with the papers and agenda supplied to all members prior to the meeting.

1) Opening Business

Welcome & Notices

Norman Buck gave a cordial welcome on behalf of the church and identified domestic information. Revd Mark Carrick welcomed all in attendance to the meeting. He explained to the observers they were most welcome to participate but if any voting was needed, they could not vote. Staveley was thanked for their hospitality. Neil Harland was attending on behalf of the District.

Opening Devotions

Devotions were led by Mark based upon Psalm 18 which is often interpreted that God empowers the faithful through life's darkest struggles.

Constitution of the Meeting

39 Members attended the meeting (including the chair) and 15 gave apologies with one member not responding. 11 attended as observers and recorded their names on the attendance list.

Appointment of Scrutineers

Reg Rodda was appointed as scrutineer.

Minutes of the meetings held on 16th March 2026

The minutes were accepted as a true record. The meeting was in favour of accepting the minutes and these were duly signed by the Chair.

Matters Arising

There were none.

Correspondence

- Jill King reminded the meeting of the opportunity to attend the Easter Offering service at Hasland 6pm Sunday 7th June 26.

Remembrances

- Agnes Tranter gave a eulogy of the service of Betty Leteve, who had died aged 95yrs and had been a member and circuit meeting member from Loundsley Green.
- Mark reported on the recent passing of Rev'd Kim Goh. Funeral details will follow.

Mark then led prayers for the families in their time of mourning and the service they had given to the Lord.

2) Appointments

a. **Circuit Leadership Team.** The Chair invited Angela Walker to speak to her circulated paper. She highlighted a number of items and thanked John Hawkins for his service as a Circuit Steward as he stepped down from the role. She reported then that three members had volunteered to become new Circuit Stewards and sought the approval of the meeting for their appointment:

- Alyson Franks
- Gill Daly
- Reg Rodda

The meeting **Agreed** they be appointed and welcomed them with thanks.

b. **Circuit Invitations Committee.** The Chair advised that it is envisaged the constituent members will continue in post until the start of the next connexional year in September, when the Committee will be renewed for 2026/27

c. **Synod Representatives** are appointed and will continue into the next connexional year.

3) Reports of The Mission of the Circuit

▪ **New places For New people**

In the absence of Jonathan on his course training session Rev'd Richard Harris highlighted the work on-going in the report and applauded the successes Jonathan is having during a number of initiatives. Neil Harland supported this work on behalf of the District and explained how similar initiatives are also in place in other areas.

▪ **Local Preachers and Worship Leaders**

Stephen Pointer was invited to present his report by The Chair as it had some bearing on latter items. Stephen explained his circulated report and explained why the LPWL had made the **recommendations**:

That the Circuit meeting notes and supports

- a) The development of a local Worship Leaders course to enable and support those who are called and nominated by local churches as Worship Leaders
- b) The exploration of fortnightly worship patterns at smaller churches in the Circuit on the next Plan (Sep-Nov 2026) where this might be the best option to resource the enabling and leading of worship within those churches.

▪ **Ecumenical Matters**

Paul King gave a verbal update of local events and the current status of Churches Together in Chesterfield, mentioning new incumbent officials of various denominations recently coming to the town.

- **Safeguarding**

Mark expressed thanks to those members who have carried out training sessions and reminded the meeting of the upcoming opportunities to renew and take enhanced training.

4) Resourcing Mission and Ministry across the Circuit

- **Circuit Strategy**

Rev. Mark Carrick led a presentation and discussion of the comprehensive paper *Strategy Vision and Mission Plan* previously circulated inviting comment and observations as it progressed.

He said he had been very pleased that 25 volunteers had attended the Steering Group discussion sessions from the Circuit Family. Their breadth of knowledge and willingness to bring forward ideas and comments developed the living document circulated.

Stephen Pointer spoke about the property considerations and the need to work together to establish what the needs of the properties will be in the future; by managing our circuit property better together it will future proof its usage for the Circuit.

Glenys Clinton – brought forward a collective feeling that the Staveley area looked likely to suffer more by the loss of churches/changes and it was generally a more deprived area of Chesterfield.

Richard Harris spoke of the mission and ministry currently in Staveley and Brimington. He said there were many pastoral needs in addition to mission. We have to take along all 600 members in the Circuit.

Agnes Tranter spoke of the LEP initiative in the history of Loundsley Green and how the commitment worked because of the enthusiasm of those at the time. She likened it to the new beginnings of a family church starting with willing volunteers making themselves available.

Neil Harland, District representative took a “show of hands” straw poll to simple questions about members feelings of what they had heard.

Paul King spoke of the discipleship needs of the world and for us to go into places where people meet rather than expecting them to come to the church. He said our calling is to go out and meet the people armed with our vision objectives and talk about our faith at every opportunity.

Mark addressed all the questions and points raised, using scripture and Methodist tradition to call on the Circuit to act as ONE and ensure a place is held for all 600 members. Moving ahead in strength will be key and the philosophy of all our churches should be to be unified with LOVE in our Circuit.

Proposals – The Chair explained again the Mission Plan is a living document before taking voting on each of the proposals reproduced from the Mission Plan below.

1. The adoption of this strategic Circuit Vision and Mission Plan. **Carried 1 Ag 1Ab**
2. To confirm the six worship centres and three missional partnerships by the Spring 2027 Circuit Meeting. **Carried 3Ab**

- 3 To explore the creation of a single Church Council to provide Trusteeship for Storrs Road, Derby Road, Whittington Moor, and Hasland.
- This Council will draw resources from across the four existing congregations and strengthen the body by utilising Circuit resources, both lay and employed.
 - This Council will operate at Circuit-level, and all resources will be managed at that level.
- Carried 11Ab**

- 4 To work towards creating a new Station for an ordained Deacon to lead our missional work in the Barrow Hill, Inkersall, & Staveley areas, whilst growing leaders from a combined church uniting these areas with Brimington.
- Create a local Steering Group to explore mission and ministry across those areas, to discern their local vision, and establish a new Station ahead of the CIC meetings in 2027.
- Carried UNAN**

- 5 To support the work of Loundsley Green and the potential creation of a Family Church.
- Carried UNAN**

- 6 To encourage and support the development of a new, merged church which combines the former congregations at Barlborough and Clowne
- Carried UNAN**

- **Churches Updates** Mark gave a brief verbal report of the
 - a. Barlborough/Clowne progress to becoming an amalgamated church.
 - b. Family church plans at Loundsley Green
 - c. Brimington Common have been below 12 members for two quarters of the four permitted before no longer being recognised as a congregation by Circuit Meeting under Standing Orders.
 - d. That many church officials have held office far in excess of the suggested six-year period and consideration must be implemented of succession needs to be a priority to allow them to step down for their own health and peace of mind.
- **Finance Report** Alex introduced his circulated paper on the Circuit finances which clearly highlights the downward trend and a need to balance income to expenditure in a sustainable manner. He submitted the following;

Recommendations

That the Circuit meeting:

1. Notes the year-end forecast.
2. Approves the budget for 2026/27.

3. Approves the requirement that all Churches should approve their gifts for the following year at their Spring Church Council and notify the Circuit Office accordingly.
4. Approves the requirement that all Churches should submit their Independently Examined Year Accounts to the Circuit Office no later than 1st February of the following year.

The recommendations were **Agreed** with **2Ab**

Summary

It is clear from the figures that the finances of the Circuit are on a downward trajectory that requires action to ensure the resourcing and continuity of the Circuit. Staffing changes will lead to a reduction in outgoings as will reducing the number of properties under the Circuit's trusteeship. The sale of some properties will also lead to one off financial receipts, which help the Circuit's position in the short term and could sustain the Circuit for a number of years, however, the Circuit needs to become sustainable to negate the need for Capital receipts to ensure its continuation. This includes maximising income from existing assets and sources and ensuring appropriate controls and planning of necessary expenditure. The management of funds to maximise their benefit and to minimise deductions from them will also be important.

It is only by having a Circuit in sound financial health that it will be in a position to adequately support the needs of the Churches within it and be able to support flourishing missional activities within the Circuit.

Property

A comprehensive property report was submitted by Alex which identified the current and longer-term needs of Circuit properties. The property strand of the Circuit steering group undertook consideration of the position of each Church within the Circuit with regard to any defects or issues with the fabric of the buildings with the aim of ensuring that properties are well maintained and appropriate and that the buildings which continue to be used are appropriate for modern worship and the many other uses that take place.

The report was received with thanks and noted.

5) Closing Procedures

- **Any Other Business** – none
- **Dates and Venues for future meetings:**
 - Monday 14th September 2026 - Brimington Hall Road
 - Wednesday 17th March 2027 - Bolsover
 - Wednesday 9th June 2027 - Storrs Road
- **Closing Devotions**

The meeting closed at 9.40pm with the sharing of The Grace together.