



Derbyshire North East Circuit Meeting 24th September 2025

This meeting at Brimington Hall Road was chaired by the Rev. Mark Carrick (Superintendent Minister) who led the opening devotions.

Correspondence had been received from Celia Ramnath thanking the Circuit (and the Chesterfield Circuit) for its support over the past 11 years. Celia has moved to Cumbria to take up a post as a Local Lay Pastor.

In matters relating to the wider church, attention was drawn to the Sheffield District Gathering held on 13th September in Barnsley when the Rev. Vicky Atkins was welcomed as our new Chair of District. The Rev. Paul King presented an ecumenical report highlighting changes in the leadership of CTfC and drawing attention to future ecumenical events.

The Mission of the Circuit. The Rev. Mark Carrick presented a report about the current staffing situation in the Circuit noting that Tom Surgay has now begun work as a full-time Local Lay Pastor covering Bolsover and Hasland whilst supporting the work at Loundsley Green and the schools work at Duckmanton. Bradley Goddon-Smith continues to work with Inkersall and in the schools' trust serving Whittington Moor and Barrow Hill but in addition will now support the Rev. Richard Harris in Brimington whilst supporting young people's work at Clowne, Derby Road and Loundsley Green.

Mission planning continues to be the Circuit's focus for 2025/26 (the last Mission Plan was 2022) and needs to be a matter for Church Councils.

Joint communion service arrangements were reviewed and practical difficulties in the Brimington/Staveley area noted. There are currently 6 presbyters and supernumerary ministers available to take communion.

It was pointed out that Standing Order 605A does not necessarily mean that a chapel will close if its membership falls below 12 for four consecutive quarters but the membership of those 12 will be transferred to another chapel. This is to ensure that a small membership does not have to bear too heavy a burden in running a chapel. Chapels and the Circuit need to look ahead to see if this situation is likely to arise in any of our chapels before a fourth quarter is reached.

Church reports were received and of particular note is that work is underway at Bolsover to celebrate 200 years of Methodism in the town in 2026.

The meeting approved the reinstatement of Jane Bulkova as a local preacher following her becoming a member at Central a few months ago.

Jonathan Hood presented a report on the fruitful work in Barrow Hill and the Rother Ward. Jonathan is in the second year of his ministerial studies so in two years will be stationed to a Circuit so consideration needs to be given about what happens to the NPNP project from Summer 2027.

In regards to resourcing the Circuit, the members of the new Circuit steward team are settling into their roles. John Hawkins is leading on Finance, Stephen Pointer on Property and Angela Walker on processes, policies, meetings etc. There is still a need for one or two more Circuit Stewards.

In presenting his Finance Report, John Hawkins drew the meeting's attention to the fact that the Circuit's assets have fallen by almost 50% over two years. Whilst the sale of the Bolsover manse and the Hillstown Church site will bolster the accounts it was pointed out that we can't keep selling off properties. In the longer term the contribution of churches to the Circuit will have to increase or the Circuit will have to cut its spending which may mean we can't afford a third Presbyter or as much input from lay workers.

The meeting approved a resolution to allow the Circuit Leadership Team to look again at whether church employees eg. cleaners could be paid via the Methodist payroll on the Circuit account which might make life easier for individual churches.

As regards property, the meeting approved resolutions to sell the Hasland manse; to apply for property consents to enable funds from this sale to be ring fenced to allow the potential purchase of a future manse for a third presbyter; to sell the Hillstown Church site on the open market.

Policy Matters. A Safeguarding report was received and a new Circuit Safeguarding Policy approved.

Celia Ramnath's move means that the Circuit now needs a new Equality, Diversity and Inclusion officer.

A.O.B. Agnes Tranter asked for people's support and prayers regarding this Sunday's (28th September) demonstration outside the Sandpiper Hotel. The Stand Up to Racism campaign is planning a counter demonstration. The Rev. Richard Harris informed the meeting of the baptism earlier this year at Whittington Moor of two refugees from the Sandpiper Hotel and expressed his opposition to the proliferation of Union and St. George's flags in the area.

Please remember all of these matters in your prayers over the coming weeks.

Steven