



15 Chapels One Calling Growing Together

Who are we?

The Newport and Lower Wye Circuit is a family of Methodist Churches called by God to share the love of Christ across our towns, villages and communities.

We believe that God is calling us to be a growing, inclusive, evangelistic and justice-seeking Circuit that equips disciples, serves local communities and nurtures current and future generations of faith. Together we seek not simply to sustain what we've inherited, but build a vibrant future for Methodist witness across the region.

We have a bit of everything in this Circuit. There is the City of Newport, Market Towns and Rural Villages, each with their own character, needs and opportunities. Some are affluent, others more deprived, some have identified significant opportunities for mission while others seek to be faithful to their calling as they are able. This makes for a varied and interesting Circuit to be part of.

There are fifteen chapels in the Circuit, and together we all face challenging times as patterns of ministry, communities change. Yet at our core, in each place, our calling remains the same "to be a growing, inclusive, evangelistic and justice-seeking Circuit that equips disciples, serves local communities and nurtures current and future generations of faith."

We believe God is calling Newport and Lower Wye Circuit into a new season of growth and witness. Rooted in prayer, strengthened by discipleship and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we seek to be churches that serve generously, welcome joyfully and share Christ confidently. We dream of congregations of all ages growing in faith, communities being transformed through partnership and service, and new generations discovering the love of God.

Our Vision

We envision every chapel being known in its community as a place of welcome, hope, prayer and service.

Our vision is that will grow discipleship of Jesus Christ in the lives of people, some we know, others we are yet to meet.

Our vision is to grow a strong lay leadership to sustain and grow our ministry across the Circuit.

Our vision is to enable chapels to work together, in ways that support this all in the context of being inclusive, evangelistic and justice-seeking proclaiming and living the Kingdom of God in our world in our time, now and the future.

Growing:

Identifying where we see signs of growth.

We intend to go deeper in our relationship with God, corporately as church and as individuals.

We commit to spotting opportunities in our community where the Church can step in, be seen, be heard, make a difference.

We intend to be involved in local issues, campaigns, concerns and so share awareness of God in our locality.

We will look to ways that can support us in identifying our communities needs and the Circuit will support training where required.

We will seek to be continually open to God who may call us to nudge someone about
...moving into leadership roles,
...into leading worship or preaching roles,
...into administrative roles at Circuit or Local Chapel ...level?

And we commit as Chapels and Circuits to pray, support and encourage one another in these roles.

We will commit ourselves to risk trying something new and explore different opportunities e.g Messy Church, Café Church, Messy Vintage Church, Rock Church, Craft Church, Forest Church. Create opportunities for people to ask questions about what it means to be Christian in today's world.

Inclusive:

Every church thinks of itself as being warm, welcoming and safe. We can encourage this to be the case by offering training in:

- Safeguarding courses.
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion training.
- Unconscious Bias training.

What about considering the Inclusive Church Network? <https://www.inclusive-church.org/>

How can we more connected as a Circuit?

How can we support those who are only able to join online?

Evangelistic:

Let us encourage one another not to be shy in talking about God or sharing our faith.

Every chapel could try at least one outward-facing opportunity, activity, event, group, worship opportunity which people can be invited to or encouraged to explore.

This might be supported by the **"God for All"** strategy of the Methodist Church.

Explore what materials are available, or what we need to create to tell our stories, our history, our faith.

Justice-seeking:

Encourage Eco Church and the eco Church/Circuit Awards championing environmental concerns.

What injustice do we see locally/nationally/internationally that we could campaign on?

What organisations might we join in with and support as Chapels and as individuals? Do we know what is already being supported by those within our chapels?

We will encourage and support Chapels to have a voice in the community.

Why now?

There is no doubt that society constantly changes and that the Church too is in a period of change. Too often Churches are portrayed as places to conserve or preserve. Yet ours is a living faith in this time, in our places and will be in the future.

Yes, we can keep hold of the best we've inherited, but we are called proclaim the gospel in each generation and future of our Chapels Circuit will not be shaped simply by our buildings, finances or structures, but by our willingness to follow where God leads. Together, as fifteen chapels with one calling, we commit ourselves to growing in faith, serving our communities and sharing the good news of Jesus Christ for generations to come