

Mission Statement and Strategy 2020-25 The Methodist Church

“The calling of the Methodist Church is to respond to the gospel of God’s love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission” In this, and in partnership with others wherever possible, Rossendale Methodist Church/circuit will concentrate its prayers, resources, imagination, and commitments on this priority: “To know God and to make God known to others”. As ways towards realising this priority, the circuit will give attention to the following:

- Underpinning everything we do with God-centred worship and prayer.
- Supporting community development and action for justice, especially among the most deprived and poor – in Britain and worldwide.
- Developing confidence in evangelism and in the capacity to speak of God and faith in ways that make sense to all involved.
- Encouraging fresh ways of understanding church.
- Nurturing a culture in the church which is people-centred, caring and flexible.

Worship

The church exists to increase awareness of God’s presence and to celebrate God’s love. We will:

- Support the training and development of our ordained and lay people including Local Preachers, Worship Leaders, and others.
- Offer to the communities around us safe places for worship and acceptance.
- Facilitate the worship of God in places other than our buildings (e.g. residential homes, new areas of housing), and at special times such as Christmas and Easter.
- Help people grow a greater awareness of God’s awesome presence, and to experience his love, at all stages of life.
- Encourage and make available varied worship opportunities appropriate for people of all ages, during the week as well as on Sundays.
- Encourage and support the use of technology in our churches.

Service

The church exists to be a good neighbour to all people in need, showing compassion and empathy, and to challenge injustice. We will:

- Find ways to witness to our faith through fulfilling needs in our communities and to do what we can to support those in need in the wider world.
- Where possible provide safe, welcoming, warm, well-maintained, disability- and child-friendly, inclusive premises to give space and opportunity for church and community activities.
- Give generously, but with due thought and prayer, of time and money for God’s work in the church and in the world.
- Work for justice and peace and care for the environment in the local area, the nation, and the wider world.

Evangelism

The church exists to make more followers of Jesus Christ. We will:

- Guard against being apologetic about our faith.
- Provide more opportunities to explore the Bible and Christian faith, and the confidence to share it with others.
- Engage in mission activities both inside and outside our buildings and witness to those we meet outside the church in daily life.
- Use opportunities in community groups and at occasions such as baptisms, weddings, funerals and Christmas and Easter to share our faith.
- Work ecumenically to explore openings for evangelism in community.
- Encourage people to be able to pray with and for those who are working for peace and hope.

Rossendale Church

Mission area - Worship	Outcome	Action
Support the training and development of members	To ensure all members and volunteer have access to training.	Look to establish a 5-year training and development program for members of all 6 Church locations to access
	Advertised the training opportunities to members	Training opportunities are currently emailed to Church leaders and shared on social media platforms/via email.
	Establish a training program for worship leaders	Jill and David to explore this in more detail David to request the Worship/outreach team look at this
	To ensure we are actively recruiting and supporting our volunteers enabling us to maximise our use of volunteers	Develop a volunteer strategy and create volunteer job descriptions/adverts for outstanding roles
	Ensure the Church is compliant in all areas of Safeguarding/Health and Safety and GDPR	Update and review all church policies and procedures
Offer to the communities around us safe places for worship and acceptance. Help people grow a greater awareness of God's awesome presence, and to experience his love, at all stages of life.	To ensure members of the Church and those leading our groups are trained and able to facilitate safe spaces	This is not currently consistent in all church locations
	Ensure our buildings are fit for purpose and meet the needs of our communities	Develop a business plan and action plan to look at re-purposing some of our buildings and worship centres.
	Ensure we have sufficient resources in each location to meet the needs of the communities we serve	Achieved via the Future Group: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bacup to become a housing project supporting homeless families with a church in the centre of the build • Stacksteads to launch a Caleb Project (New Places for New People) on the back of the children and families work • Irwell Vale into a retreat centre with Cafe
	Ensure each Church location has a vision and mission plan for the areas of	Request that the mission and strategy officer or the action group support Church centres to develop a mission plan similar to the template below for each centre on their individual priorities
Encourage and support the use of technology in our churches.	Ensure each Church location has Wifi throughout, a smart TV, laptop, sound system and hearing loop	Ensure all Churches have the equipment in place and are trained to use it and that it is fit for purpose – Communications team to identify the current position and develop a strategy
	Utilising social media to promote activity and events	Dedicated communications team responsible for updating social media platforms and the website however f
	To increase the usage of our buildings and raise awareness	For us to maximise the Church website focusing on maintaining the existing content and developing a page to promote the hire of the buildings

	Allowing churches to be paperless, increase security for sensitive documents and ensure all staff/Church voluntary leaders have access to documents required in one centralised place	For us to maximise the Church website back page – storing all administrative documents on the website back function. Jill and Alex to ensure all documents are uploaded and maintained
	Maximise our communication and be more intentional to reach a greater audience	Develop a communication strategy.
	To embed the Church brand and raise the profile of the church	
Encourage / make available varied worship opportunities for people of all ages.	Ensure we have sufficient and relevant people to lead worship within all of our Church locations	Communications leads have worked hard working with each Church location and paid staff to encourage all locations to have the communications team develop posters/leaflets and communication which is shared publicly to ensure we maintain a standard in communication
		Develop a plan for inspiring and encouraging more worship leaders
Help people grow a greater awareness of God’s awesome presence, and to experience his love, at all stages of life.	Develop a plan for the year for worship opportunities across the One Church	Identify existing preachers or church leaders from other churches willing to lead worship in our churches
	Ensure provision is made for Children and youth at Church locations	The Outreach Team to look at developing a calendar of activities to include:
Facilitate the worship of God in places other than our buildings	To increase the number of prayer and worship sessions available	Lent Course/ Advent Course
		Advertise Family Services at Bacup/ Stacksteads and Crawshawbooth. Special event services at Easter, Christmas, Harvest etc....
		Currently there is only Sunday school provision at Stacksteads on a regular basis. Need to explore this at Crawshawbooth and confirm the provision at Bacup
	To increase the number of conferences we promote/facilitate as a Church	Acoustic prayer and worship sessions in a small home venue Requested by a youth member – 3 held to plan future events for 2024
		Prayer and worship session held by Turret House and Life Church are promoted and youth/church members attend regular – look at how we increase attendance at these
		Prayer sessions held as part of the Ecumenical offer – look at how these are advertised, and do we evaluate the success of these events?

Stacksteads Mission Plan

<u>Mission area - Worship</u>	<u>Outcome</u>	<u>Action</u>
Support the training and development of members	Training has been provided to volunteers and currently the Church is meeting all of its required areas	Training courses in Safeguarding and first aid have been offered to members and volunteers through both the Methodist District Training and local training providers. A level 2 food hygiene course has been provided to our youth helpers and youth leaders and 4 people qualified. Free allergen training has been identified and offered to members To develop a Training matrix and identify future training gaps
	The circuit provided a training course on preaching and public speaking	
	To ensure the Church is compliant in all areas	
Offer to the communities around us safe places for worship and acceptance. Help people grow a greater awareness of God's awesome presence, and to experience his love, at all stages of life.	To ensure members of the Church and those leading our groups are trained and able to facilitate safe spaces	We currently have over 10 people who are trained and experienced in safeguarding covering all aspects from DV, Child sexual exploitation, grooming, financial abuse etc.... Volunteers are trained to support individuals who are requesting additional support or require a safe space. Link to training matrix for new volunteers
	Jill and Sarah have been filming with Lisa from Wonderful me for part of the online training sessions teaching churches how they can be more trauma informed Churches. The initial training course (pt 1) has been made available free of charge and has been shared with members	Explore how we can inform more practice and provide more, Jill and Sarah to explore opportunities in developing support groups for foster careers (with a religion background)
	Monday night kids club has been offering support to families and volunteers from a pastoral perspective with specific volunteers available to offer pastoral support	Continue to provide this and look at how we can be more intentional with our offer
	Develop an improved offer for children youth and families across all Churches in Rossendale and increase our youth and children's ministry	There is an established ecumenical group for youth/children and families' workers who meet regular and are looking at a shared vision plan
Encourage and support the use of technology in our churches.	The church has Wifi throughout, a smart TV in the community room which can be connected to a laptop, laptop and smart Tv in the Church and a sound system	Wi-Fi has been fixed Sept 2024 and the sound system from Shawforth is being relocated to Stacksteads to improve the provision
	we have seen significant growth on the Church FB Page as a result of the posts we are generating.	Utilising social media to promote activity and events as well as updating the website. We need to be more consistent and intentional with promotional posts.

		We need to develop a communication strategy to better understand the direction for targeting
Encourage / make available varied worship opportunities for people of all ages. Help people grow a greater awareness of God's awesome presence, and to experience his love, at all stages of life.	Deliver a Toddler group term time on a Friday 9:30am – 11:00am which will include biblical content which is affordable.	This has been achieved and we are seeing an increase in members.
	Deliver a kids club term time Monday 3:30-6pm which will include biblical content and a hot meal and is affordable.	Group currently at capacity with over 30 attendees and offers free places to those affected by poverty – Continue to identify ways to integrate into Church life
	Deliver a Youth group term time Friday 7pm – 9pm which will include biblical content and is free of charge Successful youth summer holiday programme to Christian Adventure Holidays Successful progression from kids club into Youth Helpers on a Monday night	We continue to struggle to identify a successful model, we have a small group in place and are short of volunteers. Small group connected to Youth adventure holiday exploring ways to establish a new place for new people There is an established progression route for the children to remain at kids club as youth volunteers once at secondary school
	To provide affordable holiday club provision including providing a well-balanced hot meal and biblical content to children aged 4-11 years with opportunities for young people aged 11-18 years to volunteer as youth leaders	We continue to be successful in obtaining HAF funding to provide free holiday provision to those affected by poverty. In Easter/ Summer and Christmas
	To deliver small groups to explore their faith and deepen their relationship with Jesus, in addition to provide accountability to each other within their faith.	Thursday Fellowship Friday Life Group is a well-established group currently with a membership of people in their 20's-40's
	Offering all aged worship services throughout the year	We have established a routine of offering all aged worship services throughout the year and encourage children and families to attend from the groups
	Provide a Sunday School for children /youth weekly for families attending Church	We have an established team of volunteers and programme in place
	Develop a successful new place for new people	We have launched several family services aimed at the families from kids club throughout the year Following feedback from young people we have advertised our first new service Awaken for September 2024 and have further services planned Meetings are being held with the Caleb project in Manchester to discuss support for a new place for new people
		To develop and co-ordinate Praise and prayer worship sessions

Facilitate the worship of God in places other than our buildings		Prayer walk arranged as part of the pray for Lancashire movement on May 24 with prayer stations and opportunity for fellowship Prayer walk and prayer stations arranged for Sept 24 for pray for schools day
		Promote prayer sessions as part of 24 hour of prayer and look at how we can be a more prayerful church and how we can link more into the 24-hour prayer movement
		Create opportunities for members including youth to attend the prayer and worship sessions at Turret House of Prayer – youth trip arranged for March 24 with adult church members
	To facilitate Church Holiday / retreats	We have secured external funding from Jack’s Club plus submitted a bid to take 12 young people to Bassenfell Christian Adventure Holidays in Aug 2024 – look to fund a 2025 trip
		We facilitated a camp in May 2023 for the kid’s club. This was very successful, but we currently don’t have capacity to continue in 2024. Explore this again in 2025
		Facilitated a camping trip for Christian families August 2023 to Quinta – booked again for 2024 consider inviting more families from church
	Explore conferences	Alex and Paul to explore a Men’s conference in Bradford, to promote and specifically invite people to attend
		Church members booked into Clitheroe’s women’s conference March 24
		Explore other conference opportunities – particularly targeting youth as part of our yearly activity plan
	Increase the opportunity to explore more contemporary worship	The creation of the One Church Band who have played at several events over the last 6 months – look to continue to develop the band with a specific focus on modern worship and events which target families and young people.
		We have started to introduce more mainstream contemporary worship songs to kids club alongside easy action worship songs and the children have responded well.
		Launch new place for new people – Awaken (see notes above)

Plan update 30/1/2024

18/9/24

Crawshawbooth

Mission area - Worship	Outcome	Action
Support the training and development of members	Training opportunities available for all volunteers.	2 qualified first Aiders in post
	Food Hygiene course required for volunteers.	Food hygiene course provided and 2 people trained
	Safeguarding training provided to relevant volunteers	Some members completed Safeguarding Training externally.
	To ensure the Church is compliant in all areas	To review and update all church policies and procedures – Risk assessments are already in place these need to be annually reviewed
Offer to the communities around us safe places for worship and acceptance. Help people grow a greater awareness of God's awesome presence, and to experience his love, at all stages of life.	To ensure members of the Church and those leading our groups are trained and able to facilitate safe spaces	On going
	Community café now monthly welcoming all people from the community. Warm welcome given and ensure everyone understands about Church.	Complete new "what's on" leaflet to hand out at coffee mornings Looking to increase the number of days/times this provision is provided – Looking to recruit additional volunteers
	All events to include a speech by Jackie or Neil around the purpose of the Church.	To develop further links with the AA group. Consider worship evening coinciding with their evening?
	Church Band created to help provide modern worship to help encourage younger members. Family services once a month now and worship evenings also arranged.	Arrange regular worship evenings
	Increase the use of the building as a safe welcoming space for community	The building is currently used to near capacity by local community and groups this also contributes to the income for the up keep of the building
Encourage and support the use of technology in our churches.	The church has Wifi throughout, a smart TV in the chapel which can be connected to a laptop, laptop and smart Tv in the Church and a sound system. PA also available. New speaker has been donated to the Church. This works with Bluetooth and can work independently of electric	Monitor continued needs. Update as required
	we have seen significant growth on the Church FB Page as a result of the posts we are generating, with more than 170 followers.	Continue Utilising social media to promote activity and events.
Encourage / make available varied worship opportunities for people of all ages.	Deliver a Toddler group term time on a Monday 9:30am – 11:00am ask volunteers to include biblical content.	We need more volunteer helpers – (already tried advertising a job description through BPCVRS with no response.) further ways to obtain help need to be explored.
	Creating a modern worship band intending to grow the Church community.	

Help people grow a greater awareness of God's awesome presence, and to experience his love, at all stages of life.	Worship evenings for people to see a different way of worship.	Offering all aged worship services throughout the year
	Explore outreach-based activities in the future	To build capacity to look at what outreach activities could be done in places other than the Church Building

Completed 15/4/24

Updated 18/9/24

Rawtenstall

Mission Area - Worship	Outcome	Action
Support the training and development of members	Training opportunities to be available to volunteers and members to ensure church is compliant in all required areas	Develop training grid to track training requirements and identify needs
		Check for local provision of training which may be useful for church volunteers and make use of community links to seek opportunities to learn together
	To ensure the Church is compliant in all areas	Utilise Methodist District Training where appropriate
Offer to the communities around us safe places for worship and God's awesome presence, and to experience his love, at all stages in life	To identify a volunteer to review and update all church policies and procedures in line with requirements	DBS checks are in place where appropriate for members directly working with children and vulnerable adults.
	Ensure members of the church and leaders of our groups are trained, and able to facilitate safe spaces.	Join the youth and families group led by Jonny at Kay Street Baptist Kay street also looking to establish a support group for toddlers' leaders
	Explore ecumenical links with other denominations locally to ensure children's ministry and youth work continue to offer relevant and appropriate support in the community	Volunteers from within the group may help with this, but we need to find leadership from within the Rossendale Methodist Church which is not paid staff
	Seek ways to continue 'The Haven' once when staff leave in Aug 2024	Via the mother and Toddler Group on Tuesday afternoon Youth provision ceased in Sept 2024 Currently no Sunday School provision
Encourage and support the use of technology in our churches	Continue to offer to support families and children within the local community	Ensure membership/volunteers are trained to use the technology provided, including linking the laptop and connecting the microphones in Room 1
	The screen in Room 1 has allowed ideal opportunities to include visual links into worship and may prove to be beneficial to other church groups	Specific planning ahead for events and special services, allowing plenty of time for these to be posted
Advertising of special services and events to be put to the social media contact for the Church Instagram/Facebook pages	Encourage/Make available varied worship	Long term support to be identified as this is currently supported by the Super Intendent Minister which is not long term sustainable.
Deliver a Toddler Group, to include a biblical content		

<p>opportunities for people of all ages.</p> <p>Help people grow a greater awareness of God's awesome presence, and to experience his love, at all stages of life.</p>	<p>Deliver a Youth Group, maximising help from previous attendees, and consider including some biblical content/faith offering</p>	<p>Seek to understand the needs of the youths/families attending</p>
	<p>Consider offering all age worship service throughout the year.</p>	<p>Encourage the continued participation of connected young people</p>
	<p>Offer Sunday School sessions for children attending church. Currently no regular children or families.</p>	<p>Sunday school remains a concern for the future of the church and will be subject to regular review. Continue to seek to find ways to encourage families</p>
	<p>To deliver small group opportunities for members and contacts to explore their faith and deepen their relationship with God and each other</p>	<p>Offer house groups/bible study groups for lent and advent. Look to increase this offer?</p>
	<p>To encourage use of the buildings for regular groups, which may not be directly linked to the church activities and look at ways to increase awareness of the church</p>	<p>The building is currently utilised by group on a significant number of days Promote the church and facilities to help generate income</p>
<p>Facilitate the worship of God in places other than our buildings.</p>	<p>Continue to develop ecumenical links in Rossendale and seek opportunities to work together.</p>	<p>Include more united and joint services within the plan to develop links and assist with the limited number of local preachers available.</p>
	<p>Increase opportunities for contemporary worship.</p>	<p>Continue to seek opportunities for outdoor worship, such as those enjoyed on Good Friday and Remembrance Sunday, to give a more visible witness in the community</p>

Completed April 2024

Reviewed Sept 2024

Bacup

Mission Area - Worship	Outcome	Action
Support the training and development of members	Training opportunities to be available to volunteers and members to ensure church is compliant in all required areas	Develop training grid to track training requirements and identify needs.
		Check for local provision of training which may be useful for church volunteers and make use of community links to seek opportunities to learn together
	To ensure the Church is compliant in all areas	Utilise Methodist District Training where appropriate
		Review and update all policies and procedures
Offer to the communities around us safe places for worship and God's awesome presence, and to experience his love, at all stages in life	Ensure members of the church and leaders of our groups are trained, and able to facilitate safe spaces	DBS checks are in place where appropriate for members directly working with children and vulnerable adults
	Continue to deliver the Warm Homes initiative on a Wednesday teatime /Deliver Make N Take events aimed at families providing an alternative option to Church	Look to recruit more volunteer to support this outreach This has moved to monthly and has been combined with make n take activities.
	Develop a housing project within the building providing a safe place for families in need of emergency accommodation	Identify resources required to convert the building into emergency accommodation
Encourage and support the use of technology in our churches	As part of the building project look to improve the use of technology	Explore the increase usage in technology through the building project
	Advertising of special services and events to be put to the social media contact for the Rossendale Methodist Church Instagram /Facebook pages.	Specific planning ahead for events and special services, allowing plenty of time for these to be posted on social media.
Encourage/Make available varied worship opportunities for people of all ages	Continue to deliver the Warm Homes initiative on a Wednesday teatime /Deliver Make N Take events aimed at families providing a alternative option to Church	More volunteer helpers are required to assist in delivering opportunities to all in our community.
Help people grow a greater awareness of God's	To deliver small group opportunities for members and contacts to explore their faith and deepen their relationship with God and each other.	Established Women's group and Bible group

awesome presence, and to experience his love, at all stages of life.	Offer all age worship service throughout the year	Once a month service available
	Offer Sunday School sessions for children attending church.	Currently no children/families accessing
	Deliver Wednesday drop in with an additional provision of prayer and worship session.	Continue to recruit volunteers to support
	To encourage use of the buildings for regular groups, which may not be directly linked to the church activities and look at ways to increase awareness of the church	Currently on hold due to the redevelopment of the building
Facilitate the worship of God in places other than our buildings	Continue to develop ecumenical links in Rossendale and seek opportunities to work together	Include more united and joint services within the plan to develop links and assist with the limited number of local preachers available.
	Develop a housing project within the building providing a safe place for families in need of emergency accommodation	Identify resources required to convert the building into emergency accommodation

Completed April 24

Reviewed September 24

Irwell Vale

Mission Area - Worship	Outcome	Action
Support the training and development of members	Training opportunities to be available to volunteers and members to ensure church is compliant in all required areas	Develop training grid to track training requirements and identify needs.
		Check for local provision of training which may be useful for church volunteers and make use of community links to seek opportunities to learn together
	To ensure the Church is compliant in all areas	Utilise Methodist District Training where appropriate
		Review and update all policies and procedures
Offer to the communities around us safe places for worship and God's awesome presence, and to experience his love, at all stages in life	Ensure members of the church and leaders of our groups are trained, and able to facilitate safe spaces	DBS checks are in place where appropriate for members directly working with children and vulnerable adults
	Provide a community Chapple tearoom for the local community providing a safe and welcoming place for people to access	Tearooms were opened 7 days a week though the summer to provide a community space for residents and wider community, this is now provided 5 days a week. Additional volunteers/staff resources are required to maintain this provision
	Provide access to the church for events and community groups	Complete general maintenance and improvement work on the internal of the building to provide a welcoming and accessible space. Significant improvements have been made to the outside space and gardens and this is being maintained on a regular basis to provide a welcoming environment.
Encourage and support the use of technology in our churches	The church has Wifi throughout, a smart TV in the chapel which can be connected to a laptop, laptop and smart Tv in the Church and a sound system. PA also available.	Monitor continued needs. Update as required
	Advertising of special services and events shared widely	Information is shared on the village social media pages as well as the Methodist Church pages. Posters and leaflets are distributed via the cafe
Encourage/Make available varied worship opportunities for people of all ages	Provide opportunity for prayer and worship sessions	With support of the wider one church prayer sessions have been held with future sessions being planned Special event services to be held for example the Christmas Carole service

Help people grow a greater awareness of God's awesome presence, and to experience his love, at all stages of life.	Explore the wider use of the building as a specific retreat/prayer session	Meetings held to identify a way forward to develop this
	To encourage use of the buildings for regular groups, which may not be directly linked to the church activities and look at ways to increase awareness of the church	There has been significant increase in the use of the building for special events and additional work is being completed in improving the look and feel of the building to increase the use.
Facilitate the worship of God in places other than our buildings	Through the work of the café	Support is provided to the local community via the café/tea room.

Completed Sept 2024