

# Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District

## Mission Statement and Plan (revised Oct 18)

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  
It does this through:

### **Worship**

The Church exists to increase awareness of God's presence and to celebrate God's love

### **Learning and Caring**

The Church exists to help people to grow and learn as Christians, through mutual support and care

### **Service**

The Church exists to be a good neighbour to people in need and to challenge injustice

### **Evangelism**

The Church exists to make more followers of Jesus Christ

**The Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District** seeks to respond to this calling:

- in the places God plants us
- with the people God has brought together
- facing the communities and the world God calls us to serve

so that we may be a channel for God's transforming power

**The District has a particular role in:**

- Providing or sourcing resources not directly available to local Circuits and churches
- Encouraging and challenging Circuits and Churches to fulfil their Calling locally
- Providing a network of information and relationships to help work to be done collaboratively where possible
- Representing the District to the wider Connexion



# Overview of the District in 3 Wordles and some Stats.....



Main activities the District is involved in.....



Main relationships the District is involved in (other than with Circuits and Churches.....)



Values we hope to adopt "to serve the present age"....

	2016	(compare 1994)
<b>Members</b>	7,600	16,000 (52% decrease)
<b>New Members</b>	87	234
<b>Churches</b>	227	300 (24% decrease)
<b>Community Roll</b>	18,000	50,000
<b>Ministers on Stations</b>	53	~80-85
<b>Supernumeraries</b>	62	
<b>Associate Ministers</b>	11	
<b>Circuit Layworkers</b>	~30	
<b>Population of District</b>	2 Million	
<b>Circuits</b>	12	

## The way we intend to work together:

All those doing the work of, or representing the Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District are challenged to:

- underpin what we do with prayer, seeking to be guided and resourced by the Holy Spirit
- encourage one another to take seriously the responsibilities of Methodist membership and to understand that ministry is the work of the whole people of God
- be honest and accountable in all our dealings
- model “Positive Working Together”<sup>2</sup> - seeking to communicate well (being especially careful in the use of email and social media); to work inclusively and to avoid any abuse of our power
- support one another, giving priority to spending time together when appropriate
- avoid over-working and be willing to ask for help and to signpost it for others
- work with good humour

## What we intend to do:

The District does many things, not all listed here. The following lists some of the **emphases** for the District in the Connexional Year 2018/19, particularly where the **work is new**. Some of the work will go beyond the next 12 months. It will be audited at each District Policy Committee meeting and next revised at the meeting in June 2019.

<b>1. Discipleship, Mission and Evangelism</b>	
a) Introduce the District theme of “Courage” for 2018/19	Chair, Synod Secretary & Assistant, Training Group
b) Arrange “Courageous” event for visit of President / Vice-President / Youth President on 2nd March 2019, inviting young people to take a leading role (as a platform for further youth participation in the life of the District)	Chair, Training Group, Learning Network, Resourcing Mission Committee
c) Hold at least 2 Retreat days around the theme of “Courage” and explore idea of Pilgrimage for Spring 2019	Chair plus appointed others
d) Encourage and incentivise participation in Thy Kingdom Come (3rd of 3 years?)	Resourcing Mission, TKC Champion
e) Promote available resources; share stories of good practice and risk-taking for the gospel (successes and failures); model missional outlook in visits to Circuits and the leading of worship; encourage ecumenical collaboration	District Office, Chair, Ministry & Mission Co-ordinator, Learning Network

f) Pursue possibilities of partnering with <i>All We Can</i> in link with Free Methodist Church in Rwanda	World Church; <i>All We Can</i> District contact
<b>2. The provision of ministry resource in Circuits</b>	
<i>We intend to view the “shortage” of ministers in stationing as God’s gracious invitation to change rather than / as well as a series of “problems to be solved”.</i>	
a) Complete the setting up of, and oversee the working of, the ministry team in the Central Section of the Shropshire and Marches Circuit (set-up 2017/18; team operating 2018-2020)	Mission & Ministry Co-ordinator
b) Set up at least one more ministry team at the invitation of a Circuit (set-up 2018/19, team operating 2019-21)	Mission & Ministry Co-ordinator
c) Work with Circuit Invitation Committees to ensure that profiles drawn up are both honest and creative in their approach; identifying real opportunities for a potential minister to engage with the Circuit in transformational ministry rather than keeping the status quo. Begin, from an early stage, to identify a Plan B	Chair; Lay Stationing Rep
d) Continue to engage with Supernumerary ministers on a District as well as a Circuit basis on both their pastoral needs and the continuing ministry they wish to exercise	Chair, Superintendents
e) Continue to call churches and individuals to discern their vocations (2017/18 theme)	Chair, Mission & Ministry Co-ordinator
f) Explore a project where the District might assist churches contemplating closure eg by listening to and recording their stories	Chair, Rev’d Liz Dunning working with relevant Superintendents and churches
<b>3. Training</b>	
a) Play an active part in establishing the new Training Region (Birmingham and W&S Districts) working under the guidance of the Regional Training Forum	Chair; Lay Rep to Forum; Learning Network
b) Prioritise training for Circuit Stewards in 2018/19	Chair / Learning Network
c) Encourage engagement with Equality, Diversity and Inclusion toolkit	Learning Network/ Training Group

<b>Governance</b>	
d) Provide job description for, and appoint, small group to audit compliance with Charity Commission and other legislation, especially in field of finance	District Executive, Treasurer
e) Redefine and appoint to “District Executive” for purposes of developing strategy in advance of District Council meetings	Chair, Synod Secretary, District Executive
f) <i>Prepare to fill District Property Secretary role on Christopher Parkes’ retirement from it in August 19</i>	Chair, DPC
<b>4. Supervision Implementation</b>	
Engage with District responsibilities under the Connexional Supervision Policy: a) Complete District Implementation plan b) engage with “District” Supervisors c) begin supervision of Superintendent ministers	Chair; Supervisors identified in Implementation plan
<b>5. Safeguarding</b>	
Implement the roll-out of the Advanced Module of Creating Safer Space across the District, and ensure Circuits have arrangements in place to run the new Foundation/Refresher Module	District Safeguarding Officer
<b>6. District Office Functions</b>	
Prepare for Leigh’s replacement in Summer 2019	District Office staff, District Executive

1. List arising from exercise at Superintendents’ Residential (not exclusive)
2. See *Positive Working Together* Resources at <http://www.methodist.org.uk/media/4290/positive-working-together-short-report-0715.pdf>