**Tamworth & Lichfield** 

**Circuit Mission Action Plan :
positional statement at April 2024**

| **Together for growth and renewal****Aims: To be a strong Methodist presence in our communities** **To live out our calling as disciples of Christ through: worship,**  **growth in faith? learning and caring?**  **service in communities**  **evangelism & faith sharing** **To be agents for change and transformation by seeking justice and peace** **To be inclusive and welcoming communities** **To support one another both lay and ordained in an uncertain future** **To discover different ways of being a Christian presence and build community**  |
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| **OBJECTIVES** | **WHY** | **ACTION**  | **BY WHOM** | **ACTION DATE** | **RESOURCES** | **Position at 23.04.24** |
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| **To pray** | Everything we do should be backed by the prayers of God’s people, seeking his will, guidance and help | Encourage growth of prayer in all our churches through prayer services, groups, prayer days. | Circuit Staff, local preachers and worship leaders | 2021-22 | Staff and lay leaders to develop prayer initiatives.Ensure every member has a prayer manual. | Monthly prayer services on Sunday evenings. (discontinued May 2024)Holy week pilgrimage (2023)More awareness of prayer manual.Posts on social media for Holy week and AdventWritten worship still distributed.prayer focus re instated on Plan |

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| **To expand Hybrid Church and Online presence** | Following success of recorded circuit online worship and it being been accessed by many outside, we plan to explore and extend online presence through social media, You Tube and website. Also to explore the possibility of live streamed worship once we are able to worship in our buildings.  | Develop and expand Face Book reach.Develop the use of YouTube for worship, outreach and evangelism.Develop and use website more effectively.Explore potential of live streaming worship.Consider linking with the district digital initiative for ‘New People New Places’.Employ a digital  coordinator. | Members of the CLT, Circuit Administratorand volunteers with skills in the digital ‘world’. | 202120212021-2220212021-22 | Digital coordinator.Equipment for live streaming to be purchased.Training for lay volunteers.  | Digital Enabler employed September 2022.Expansion of social media presence .Conscious move away from hybrid model at this stage. Market already covered .Camera purchased.Circuit website re vamped and individual church websites in development.Digital Co-ordinator training lay volunteers as necessary.‘Take Time’ training will enable this initiative to be extended across the circuit.Digital Enabler role developed / evolved to encompass other aspects of media and communication .New contract September 2024.‘New people , New place‘ on hold. |

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| **To develop and grow confident disciples** | In order to become welcoming faith communities and to be confident in sharing our faith and inviting others to faith we need to build and grow our existing disciples.To encourage young people in their faith and growth as Christians. | Following introduction of ‘The Methodist Way of Life’ themes in the January worship we will continue to use the materials available from the Connexion to:Encourage a commitment to worship as a whole way of life. When together in church to explore new ways and patterns of worship.Expand and encourage small groups around the circuit to enable learning, growth in faith and the confidence to live and work out faith.Children & young people young people to be nurtured and encouraged in faith in youth groups.Foster lifestyles of service in our communities and beyond.Discover how our pastoral network can encourage spiritual growth. | CLT, Local preachers, ordained staff and retired ministers.Local preachers and ordained staff.Youth leadersPastoral Visitors | 2021-22 | Training of group leaders and pastoral visitors.Resources to be obtained/purchased | ‘The Methodist Way of Life’ has not progressed across the circuit.Regular Sunday worship continues to be the primary focus for spiritual development.RISE breakfast Church at Lichfield. Now well established as an additional pattern of worship, focus to draw new people in.Café Church at St Andrews continues to be explored.Afternoon worship being trialled in Shenstone and Alrewas.Small Bible Study groups/House groups meeting across Circuit. Children and Youth groups at Lichfield and Alrewas, supported by new Families’ worker employed September 2022.Exploration of role of pastoral visitors in encouraging growth has opportunity for further development.Preachers continue to be encouraged in their ongoing development and their regular conduct of Church services, and ‘ Worship at Home ‘ are greatly appreciated. |

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| **To strengthen Children’s and youth work. (3Gen),** | To encourage young people in growing faith through youth fellowship, participation in district and connexional youth work.To encourage outreach to younger children. | Involve young people in planning and leading worship.Support youth leaders in their roles.Resourcing and equipping youth.Facilitating attendance at youth events.To provide training and resourcing people for schools work, toddler and messy church groups. | Staff and administrator plan making.Youth leaders.Volunteers and facilitators of activities for younger children.  | 2021-2023 | TrainingResourcesSubsidising cost of attendanceSafeguarding training and checks | **Lichfield**: ‘Participate’ and Youth fellowship run fortnightly, led by volunteers supported by family Worker.Young people have attended 3GEN and AMPLIFY ; some financial support given by Circuit.**Alrewas:** Youth Club ‘ Fun Friday’ established Summer 2023 in partnership with Urban Saints , run by families Worker.Monthly ‘Together in Worship’ aims to attract familiesToddler groups at **Lichfield and Alrewas** continue**.**Toddler praise at Lichfield : new initiative (FW)Messy Church continues at St Andrews. Opportunities being explored at Hopwas.**Primary Schools:** regular visits for assembly/ RE in Hopwas, Shenstone, Alrewas and across Lichfield continue. |

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| **To review our strategy for planning and development** | To take an overview of circuit ministry, outreach and missionTo explore opportunitiesfor a Christian presence on new housing developments. | Develop centres of mission or hubs and encourage a sense of being circuit mission.Support smaller village churches in mission and outreach. Develop & explore ecumenical working and ministry.Create a different vision for a Methodist presence in Tamworth as a circuit initiative. (Link with TBC Town Plan.) Resolve the Tamworth buildings situation and focus on building a worshipping community. | CLT and circuit meetingPresbyters and lay leaders in the community.Deacon & lay team.CLT & Local CC | 2021 – 23+2021-232021-232021-222022 | Financial capitalHiring premisesEmployed staffTraining for volunteers and paid employees | Appointments:Rev Jo employed as supt. (2022)Rev Wendy appointed as Probationer at Lichfield (2022)Hannah Hawkswood appointee as Digital Enabler (2022)Gemma Grice appointed by Lichfield and Alrewas as families Worker (2022)Deacon Joy took up a new appointment in Bradford 2023Rev Wendy maternity leave 2023/24 and maternity cover for pastoral work undertaken by Kate Arden-White at Lichfield.Michael Sharman appointed in 2024 as Community Worker for Tamworth.Ecumenical work in Tamworth, Hopwas and Shenstone growing and evolving positively.Building at Central sold (2023)St Andrews/ Central congregation united on St Andrews site.Glascote closed 2023; Methodist fellowship continues at St Georges, whilst retaining Methodist membership.Future of building process underway.New Community worker exploring opportunities for outreach from St Andrews and with Tamworth town centre. |

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| **To reassess Staffing** | To consider staffing needs of the circuit in line with MAP. To explore the employment opportunities of lay workers | Circuit invitations committee to consider implications of ordained staffing through stationing.Continue the process of writing job descriptions. checking employment options and law etc  | Circuit Invitations committee |  | Finance/Assessment/BudgetSources of funding | See appointments in previous section.Lay workers, employed and fulfilling roles as agreed. Line management by superintendent ,and support groups in place. Community Lay worker in Tamworth funded from sale Central Church.Family worker: funded by Alrewas and Lichfield.Digital Enabler/ media communications officer funded by circuit fundsCircuit Support Worker initially funded Wendy’s maternity cover. |

Adopted by Tamworth & Lichfield Circuit Meeting (24th March 2021)

To be reviewed annually.