



## “Growing in Christ”

Our strapline sums up what we hope to achieve through our vision– both spiritual growth in individuals and churches, and growth through new people coming to Christ. Our logo shows a tree or vine (referencing John 15) growing from the strapline and encircling the Methodist Orb and Cross, representing the world.

### Current Priorities

Our Vision was approved in June 2015. In April 2016 the following Priorities were agreed by the Circuit Council:

#### Five building blocks to create a culture for Growing in Christ

- Re-imagined governance
- Strong small groups
- Effective leadership

To allow us to:

- Release missionary congregations
- Grow a range of diverse ministries

**Re-imagined governance:** A Resources Manger has been employed to help churches deal with governance and property issues and to find ways of freeing people for other ministries.

**Strong small groups:** Building on the strengths of the old Methodist Class system, growing strong groups that care for members, help them grow and nurture their gifts. Lent and Bible Month groups are being promoted across the Circuit and training for group leaders is being arranged.

**Effective leadership:** Provide a framework for equipping lay leaders, including training and mentoring, and supporting risk-taking.

**Release missionary congregations and Grow a range of diverse ministries:** To enhance existing congregations’ worship and prayer, engage with local communities and inspire new congregations. With a partnership of ordained and lay leadership, responding to needs and opportunities as they arise and providing a framework for support.



# York Methodists

***Our Circuit’s Calling is to encourage growth in Christ through:***

#### Worship

Increasing awareness of God's presence and celebrating God's love

#### Learning and Caring

Helping people to learn and grow as Christians, through mutual support and care

#### Service

Being a good neighbour to people in need and challenging injustice

#### Evangelism

Making more followers of Jesus Christ

***In fulfilling Our Calling we will seek to embody the following principles:***

#### Witnessing in the World

*Deepening local engagement alongside involvement in national and world concerns*

#### Inspiring Ministry

*Encouraging and supporting risk-taking mission alongside affirming care and fellowship*

#### Nurturing Relationships

*Treasuring our Methodist belonging alongside deeper ecumenical and community partnerships*

#### Developing our Gifts

*Enabling lay leadership and participation alongside a strong staff team*

#### Offering Hospitality

*Maintaining and resourcing premises for mission alongside outreach beyond existing buildings*

#### Welcoming Diversity

*Affirming each other alongside the pursuit of variety*

### **Inspiring Ministry**

*Encouraging and supporting risk-taking mission  
alongside affirming care and fellowship*

We look to Christ and are inspired by both his call to 'follow him' to new ground and his command to 'feed his sheep'.

#### **Our Vision:**

Our vision is for every local church community to feel sufficiently cherished, inspired and supported by the Circuit that they have the confidence and faith to look outwards and take risks.

### **Nurturing Relationships**

*Treasuring our Methodist belonging  
alongside deeper ecumenical and community partnerships*

We look to Christ and are inspired by how he reached out to others and drew people together to work for the Kingdom.

#### **Our Vision:**

Our vision is for our Methodist heritage to be offered in a wide variety of relationships: within the Circuit, with ecumenical partners and in partnerships in the community and the world around us.

### **Witnessing in the World**

*Deepening local engagement  
alongside involvement in national and world concerns*

We look to Christ and are inspired by his example of speaking to the needs of the world around him and his command that we should be salt and light'.

#### **Our Vision:**

Our vision is for local churches and the Circuit to be confident, become involved and speak out in matters of everyday life and concern in the world.

### **Offering Hospitality**

*Maintaining and resourcing premises for mission  
alongside outreach beyond existing buildings*

We look to Christ and are inspired by his example of building community with people, particularly with those who feared they were excluded or marginalised.

#### **Our Vision:**

Our vision is for Christian communities that offer welcome with a purpose and role at the heart of the community.

### **Valuing Diversity**

*Affirming each other  
alongside the pursuit of variety*

We look to Christ and are inspired by his open armed welcome and offer of grace to everyone.

#### **Our Vision:**

Our vision is for diversity of worship, ministry and mission to all, to be encouraged, supported and developed in an environment of mutual respect. Every local expression of Christian community will have confidence in the Circuit's support.

### **Developing our Gifts**

*Enabling lay leadership and participation  
alongside a strong staff team*

We look to Christ and are inspired by his call to everyone, and how he enabled people to discover 'life in all its fullness'.

#### **Our Vision:**

Our vision is to release the potential of congregational gifts supported by a strong staff team and lay leadership.