

# Church Opportunities

## Introduction to Church Opportunities

There are also a number of opportunities which can be grabbed from our Circuit and District directly by churches in the coming year, these are listed below.

## Church Without Walls

We are continuing to encourage all of our churches to engage with the District initiative called Church Without Walls. Please continue to consider what you might do for **Together in Mission week** (31st May—9th June 2019) and why not seek inspiration from the **Reimagine Church Conference** on Saturday 9th March 2019. Details of both on the Circuit website.

## Small Group Development Training

Class meetings have been a vital part of Methodist life since the start of the movement. If your church is seeking to revitalize this kind of group(s) in your church then please get in touch with **Tom Milton** (Contact details on front cover). We have a number of people who could come and help your church explore this exciting area of church life.

## Everyday Faith Sharing

**Reverend Deborah Humphries** is offering to come to your church to explore what evangelism really is and to help to break down some of the stereotypes associated with it. The word 'evangelism' brings up many different emotions in many different people and can be thought of quite negatively or as something done by those with special training. This is not the case.

## Chaplaincy to User Groups

How do we support and encourage the groups which meet in our buildings and develop good relationships with them? **Reverend Nick Jones** is offering to come to your church and help you work through these questions. As Christians in the practice of hiring our or sharing our buildings with our communities we have a unique opportunity to share God's love and care for those we encounter.

## Mission in Your Community

How do we get to know our community? How do we get involved? Where the opportunities? **Deacon Ruth Yorke** has offered to come to any church that is interested to run a course looking at how to get started in developing deeper ties in your community and to think about a variety of realistic, sustainable mission activities that could be developed.

Contact details for the all the named people above can be found in our Circuit Directory  
To book a place on these courses - please phone/email the named person directly

# Birmingham Methodist Circuit

Learning and Development Opportunities 2018-19



## Introduction

An enormous strength of the **Methodist Church** is the long tradition of people offering their time, energy, gift and expertise to serve the church in paid and voluntary roles. An important aspect of discipleship is that we all participate in **programmes of learning and development**, drawing on local expertise and the rich variety of resources available through the Connexion and beyond.

In partnership with the **Discipleship & Ministries Learning Network**, our **District**, and our **Ecumenical Partners**, within this booklet are a range of opportunities for both you and your church to do just that, and continue your life long learning experience.

This year we have split our learning opportunities into two sections: **Circuit wide training or Gatherings** which we will deliver in various locations around the city and **Whole Church Training** which we will come to your church to deliver.

For more information about any of the training please contact the named person within this booklet, or for more general queries then please contact **Tom Milton** on **0121 616 1800** or [tmilton@birminghammethodistcircuit.org.uk](mailto:tmilton@birminghammethodistcircuit.org.uk)

You can always **find up-to-date information** about these courses and any other training we become aware of at [www.birminghammethodistcircuit.org.uk/training](http://www.birminghammethodistcircuit.org.uk/training)

A range of workshops and courses being run in our  
circuit for you and your church



# Circuit Wide Training

## Mental Health First Aid

**Description:** This year we are offering two courses, the MHFA Lite and the MHFA full two day course. The courses include an introduction to mental health, a guide to supporting people who are struggling with their mental health and confidence in signposting people to helpful services. The course will be run by Carol Wilson (Head of Spiritual Care for Birmingham & Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust).

**Date and Venue:** Tbc. Detailed advertising to follow.



## Dementia Awareness

**Description:** The Alzheimer's Society describe dementia as “a set of symptoms that may include memory loss and difficulties with thinking, problem-solving or language” which have “become severe enough to affect daily life”. We are planning on running an awareness course at some point in the coming year.

**Date and Venue:** Tbc. Detailed advertising to follow.

## Safeguarding

**Description:** The Methodist Church holds regular training on safeguarding in the form of a **Safeguarding Foundation Course** for those new to safeguarding and a **Safeguarding Foundation Course Refresher Edition** for all those who have already undergone the training. Please watch the circuit website for when courses are due or contact Sue Saunderson to find out about them and book by phone on **0121 4721060** or by email [ssaunderson@birminghammethodistcircuit.org.uk](mailto:ssaunderson@birminghammethodistcircuit.org.uk)

## Vocation and Calling Exploration Day

**Description:** This year we will not be holding a Vocation and Calling Exploration Day as we plan to focus our energy on supporting the development of the Ministry Teams. If you have a particular vocation or calling you would like to explore, please talk to your Minister or contact Tom Milton on 0121 616 1800.

# Circuit Gatherings

## Introduction to Circuit Gatherings

We recognise that fulfilling a role within local church life can be a demanding task. It may require skills that are new to us or that we have not used for some time. Our annual gatherings are a way of getting together people who fulfil the same role for mutual encouragement, training and support. Details of this year's gatherings are below.

## Church Stewards Gathering

**Description:** In 2018 we held our first Church Stewards Gathering and feedback from it was really positive. This year's gathering is planned to be in two parts. An introduction to Church Stewarding for new Church Stewards or those wanting a refresher, followed by a more creative time for all Church Stewards to get together to invest in learning about the role. More details of exact content to follow.



**Date and Venue:** Saturday 29th June at The Church at Carrs Lane, timings tbc

## Church Communications/Notice Contact Gathering

**Description:** Tom Milton our Circuit Communications and Training Officer will be hosting a gathering for all those who are involved with church communications. Whether it is websites, newsletters, verbal notices, or anything else, communicating well is a really important part of church life. All involved are welcome for encouragement, training and support.

**Date and Venue:** Morning of Saturday 10th November—Venue tbc

## Church Council Secretary Gathering

**Description:** Church Council Secretaries play a vital role in our churches. They are not only minute takers and administrators but also play a vital role in linking churches to the circuit. In this first gathering we would like to bring together our Birmingham Circuit's Church Council Secretaries for training, encouragement and support.

**Date and Venue:** Tbc—Dates to be communicated to Church Council Secretaries asap.