

# Sherwood Methodist Church Mission Plan: 2021 – 2026



“Following Jesus, serving the community.”

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The group acknowledge that some parts of this Mission Plan could go under different headings. After consultation, the group have made decisions as to where they believe there is a 'best fit'.

## Introduction

Welcome to the Sherwood Methodist Church Mission Plan: 2021 – 2026.

The team that began this process are very grateful to all those from the church family who have contributed to this document through the various surveys that have been carried out and countless constructive and challenging conversations.

We are pleased to present this Mission Plan, which we hope will guide us over the next five years. We hope it is flexible enough to allow us to be open to where the Spirit leads as well as providing us with some structure.

This Mission Plan has been produced during the Covid 19 pandemic. With an enforced time to take ‘time out’ and reflect, a group of people from Sherwood Methodist Church felt it was the time to pray and think on what the future shape might be for the life of the church. We are currently making plans for the re-opening of the church and a return to worship in the building. We hope that after a settling in period everyone will be ready to pray and reflect on the part they can play in moving this plan forward.

The Mission Plan has been constructed under the headings from The National Methodist Church ‘Our Calling’ document. This ensures that our priorities for mission and ministry are aligned with the resources and mission of the Methodist Church. Our hope is that over the next five years Sherwood Methodist Church can develop its role as a missional church particularly in the areas of community engagement and developing ministry amongst young people and families.

It is important to recognise that not all of the actions proposed in this report will be undertaken at once. This is a plan for five years. The hope is that teams will be formed to help direct the activities under each heading. The teams will decide the priorities for action and will give regular updates on progress.

***Jane Lewis (on behalf of the Mission Plan Team)***

## Our Calling

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, Learning and Caring, Service and Evangelism, supported by our Resources.

Sherwood Methodist Church's **Mission Statements** under these areas are as follows:

## Mission Statements

### Worship

- Encourage and enable worship that engages heart, mind and soul and that is drawn from a wide range of cultures and traditions relevant to our congregation
- Encourage members of the congregation to exercise their God-given gifts in a variety of aspects within a church service
- Explore opportunities for creative expression in corporate and individual prayer



### Learning & Caring

- Create loving communities characterised by hospitality, generosity, welcome, care, acceptance and respect.
- Be a hospitable place, caring for and including all and welcoming diversity in age, belief, ability, sexuality, ethnicity and gender
- Provide a variety of ways to learn about and to deepen our Christian faith



## Service

- Recognise our individual and collective roles in the local communities where we live, and in the wider world and be open to new ways of engaging with our communities
- Care for creation through stewardship by being an Eco Church and by supporting fair trade
- Be generous with our time, talents and money, with due thought and prayer for God's work in the church and in the world
- Challenge injustice through social action & political involvement



## Evangelism

- Show the love of God to those we encounter through our lives, our words and our actions
- Provide opportunities to explore the Bible, prayer and the Christian faith together and the confidence to share our faith with others
- Work ecumenically to explore openings for evangelism in the community
- Walk alongside others on their journeys of faith and exploration of spirituality



## Resources

- Manage our resources of money, people, buildings, garden and time effectively and realistically
- Provide safe, welcoming, warm, well-maintained, disability- and child-friendly, inclusive premises to give space and opportunity for church and community use



## Worship

Sherwood Methodist Church seeks to increase awareness of God's presence and to celebrate God's love.

Worship is central to the life of our church. Through worship, we enter into a deeper encounter with God.



### Goals:

- Encourage people to consider their calling in worship
- Appoint Worship Coordinators
- Review our worship services
- Develop our approach to prayer.
- Worship with other local churches



### Actions:

- Deliver facilitated annual workshops covering all aspects of worship including audio and visual input
- Provide a Worship Coordinator for each 10.30am service to liaise with the preacher regarding the leadership of sung worship, selection of music / songs, leadership of prayers, delivery of Bible reading, PA and projection
- Review annually all worship services to consider accessibility, diversity, styles and expressions of worship
- Explore creative approaches to prayer, including on-line, throughout the church calendar
- Explore opportunities for worship with other local churches

## Learning & Caring

Sherwood Methodist Church seeks to help people to grow and learn as Christians, through mutual support and care.

Our church is committed to being an inclusive Christian community, to care for those within and outside the church. We will offer opportunities to learn and grow in faith.



### Goals:

- Review and develop mutual support
- Build church community social interaction
- Welcome newcomers
- Review our engagement with the local community
- Develop our spiritual life and Christian faith



### Actions:

- Regularly review and develop pastoral care
- Arrange shared meals, walks and other social activities
- Review our approach to welcome. Ensure that our website and social media reflects inclusivity and welcome
- Engage with our local community, particularly our building user groups
- Review existing small groups
- Explore opportunities to learn and grow in faith through the local and wider church

## Service

Sherwood Methodist Church seeks to be a good neighbour to people in need and to challenge injustice.

Serving the Community is central to our mission and can be local, national & global.



## Goals:

- Be open to new ways to engage with our communities
- Care for creation through our stewardship
- Challenge injustice through social action and political involvement

## Actions:

- Identify, celebrate and promote our individual and collective roles in the local communities where we live and in the wider world
- Promote, encourage & strengthen eco stewardship and support for fair trade and other organisations across our church and community
- Annually select one or two social justice issues to promote, increase awareness of and support across the whole church



## Evangelism

Through our personal lives, and our life together as Sherwood Methodist Church, we want others to follow Jesus.



### Goals:

- Listen to and engage with one another's stories of faith
- Work with young people and families
- Increase activity and mutual support for evangelism with local churches
- Be intentional about sharing our faith

### Actions:

- Provide opportunities through prayer, worship, social media and events to encourage church family members to share their faith
- Increase engagement and support for a church family worker for the continuation and expansion of work with children and families
- Work ecumenically to explore openings for evangelism in the community



## Resources

We recognise the importance of making wise use of our resources (such as time, money and people) in supporting our vision as a church.



## Goals:

- Target our resources of time, money and people to support our vision
- Welcome and provide hospitality for external users of, and visitors to, the church building, garden and website
- Promote and live out our status as an Eco Church

## Actions:

- Ensure that our resources reflect and support our Mission Statements and Goals
- Appoint a group to support the work of the Bookings Secretary
- Regularly review and update the signage, symbolism, accessibility and décor of the building and garden to convey a Christian welcome to all
- Assess our performance against the requirements of the A Rocha (Eco Church) award scheme currently held and further explore achieving at the next level



## How to Get Involved

Pray! Ask God to guide you as to the part you are going to play in enabling this mission plan to be fulfilled.

Pray for the church family at Sherwood Methodist Church and for God's Holy Spirit to direct us, challenge us and change us.

Join a team to help steer through an area of the plan. Even if you might only be able to do this for a short time, please get involved!

Support events and activities to grow our fellowship as a church and to reach out to the community.

### **Remember that the church is the Body of Christ.**

'Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ....the body is not made up of one part but of many....God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. As it is there are many parts, but one body....Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.'

I Corinthians 12 (selected verses)

The **Methodist** Church 