

Oxford Circuit Priorities 2024 – 2026

	Priority	What we shall do
1. Worship	Enable acts of worship that help participants to grow in knowledge and love of God and to deepen their discipleship.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • facilitate sharing of good ideas, worship plans and resources for local arrangements • recruit and train new worship leaders and local preachers • develop imaginative ways to worship as a Circuit.
2. Learning	Encourage opportunities for all to grow in understanding of the Christian faith and distinctive emphases of Methodism.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensure that a range of study and fellowship groups are accessible at different times and places across the Circuit, both in person and online • provide and signpost training as appropriate so that more lay people have the confidence and skills to lead or facilitate such groups • invest in existing and new work with children and young people, recognising that even thriving groups can be vulnerable as generations pass through • sustain and develop student ministry within the Circuit through chaplaincy and the work at Wesley Memorial.
3. Caring	Support churches through structural changes over the period to August 2026 that will be necessary, both to relieve unsustainable burdens and to position the Circuit to continue to fulfil its purpose for many years to come.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • commit to provide pastoral support as churches face difficult decisions and adjustments • encourage collaboration and opportunities to build personal relationships between churches • cherish and look for new ways to carry forward the legacies of our churches; • provide practical help to the members of both closing and continuing church councils to ease burdens such as compliance, property and financial management • support circuit churches in working towards the full inclusion of all God's people • sustain our commitment to safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults • work with churches to make our buildings as energy efficient as possible and promote biodiversity on our land.

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4. Sharing Good News (Evangelism)	Build greater confidence to talk authentically about our faith and the awareness to take opportunities to share it.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • learn from and share successful approaches that have helped people to talk about topics that they have previously found difficult • offer worship services that provide opportunities for conversations about faith and that focus on the evangelism 'stations' from the Methodist Way of Life: 'live, share, tell'; • seek to intentionally share our faith with our local communities through activities such as leading assemblies in schools, toddler groups and holiday clubs.
5. Service	Build on existing work with people on the margins with a particular focus on the community in and around Rose Hill.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • support and encourage Circuit churches to serve their local communities and to share and celebrate good examples • work with advisors and partners to draw up a vision and plan to build on the work of Rose Hill Community Cupboard and the Rose Hill Community Chaplaincy • explore whether and how this vision fits with Connexional models of 'church on the margins' or 'new places for new people'; • invest to provide appropriate premises to support this work.