

## ONE CIRCUIT: OUR FUTURE, RESHAPING FOR MISSION

### Why are we doing this?



There are 3 obvious and easy answers to this question:

- Because what I heard from every current Circuit and Church is that people are over-burdened by and anxious about administration and compliance.
- Across the Connexion there are fewer Presbyters and even fewer offering for Superintendency, leaving us even more stretched.
- There is an imbalance across the District, with the north having more resources of pretty much every kind and the south fewer.

However, those answers may only lead us to the conclusion that if we can create an administrative and resourcing centre in 1 Circuit we will have solved the problem.

What I also heard from Circuits and Local Churches was that there is a desire to grow the church, numerically and spiritually, and to share the Good News of Jesus in better, more relevant ways.

Sorting out compliance and administration and addressing the imbalance in resources, therefore, is only one part of the 'Why'. The other is that we feel that God still has work for us to do in Lincolnshire.

So, I offer 4 broad areas, which I think come directly from our Methodist way of being Church, that the Methodist people might have to offer to Lincolnshire:

- **The Ministry of the Whole People of God.**

"Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it." 1 Corinthians 12:27

In a county where the narrative is often about being on the edge, about being disregarded, we have something to say about the importance of every person. That every person has something of value to offer in shaping our communities in good ways.

- **Hearts strangely warmed.**

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope." Romans 15:13

In a time of great uncertainty; environmental, economic, political and militarily, there is something about the reassuring presence of God who is with us.

- **The Methodist Quadrilateral.**

"For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding". Proverbs 2:6

Methodists balance scripture, reason, tradition and experience when it comes to thinking about our faith and our relationship with and understanding of God.

In an age of reaction, soundbite, and 'them and us' this measured approach is both counter-cultural and opens us up to listening to others.

- **Connexionalism.**

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." John 13:34

The vocabulary of Methodist structures is of Circuits, Societies, and Connexion. Mr Wesley's idea of Social Holiness is that faith is not an individualistic, 'Sunday' thing, but that it should be lived out in community and for others. (Matthew 25; Sheep and Goats.)

In a county where travel links are difficult, where farmers can often feel isolated, where the economy of our seaside towns is of hustle and bustle in the summer months and then nothing in the winter, and undoubtedly in a county where if you look different or you sound different you are noticeable, then being connectional, building relationships, and understanding what we have in common, strikes me as vitally important and it is part of our Methodist DNA.

### **So, why are we doing this?**

Because God isn't finished with us yet, and as the Methodist people of God we have something particular to say about the Good News of Jesus.

Rev Angy (May 2026)

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