



The Way Ahead

Falmouth and Gwennap Methodist Circuit Outreach News

Let your light so shine, that people may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:16

The Falmouth & Gwennap Circuit exists to identify where God is at work, and to join in.

In the light of the above mission statement our vision was reviewed at the March circuit meeting, it is:

Together We Aim to:

- Engage with local communities using actions and words to share the good news of God's transforming love.
- Practise worship & communication that honours God & is meaningful to existing & potential new members.
- Encourage spiritual development based on prayer, Biblical teaching, fellowship & obedience - exercising gifts & enabling development of the God given potential of whole lives for service.
- Care for those in need, including the faithful elderly; support & encourage families and young people.
- Challenge injustice.
- Cherish our place in the World Church.

We Seek to Shape Our Circuit by:

- Creatively seeking to sustain & grow relevant Christian presence in our communities, that are welcoming, hospitable, inclusive & responsive to local needs.
- Wherever possible, working in partnership with others.
- A fruitful and continual consideration of how we resource the "normal" elements of circuit life.
- Seeking to empower lay people, by identifying, growing and encouraging the use of their gifts.
- Growing mature disciples of Christ.
- Ring-fencing at least 1/4 of our "paid" ministry time for outreach, mission & enabling our lay people.
- Working within structures where we are accountable to one another, and ultimately God.
- Encouraging innovation and looking for new opportunities at circuit and local church levels.

A Challenge to each congregation

One of the goals set was that each Congregation be asked to set three targets for this year - One that is straightforward, one that is taxing and one that is unlikely, but a dream – and to consider how the circuit can help them fulfil these goals. A few examples of what congregations are doing include;

St Day met to discern their mission and to identify their goals. They have begun a commitment to have the church open for prayer every Wednesday and are exploring opportunities to redevelop links with the local school.

Ponsanooth have begun midweek fellowship lunches, at the first they began to identify their goals. They immediately accepted the challenge from the circuit to make café church available more often, agreeing to change theirs to the 3rd Sunday each month. They also committed to work towards providing a monthly Messy Church, the most recent being a 'Messy Picnic' at which we made & flew kites and considered the healing ministry of Jesus.

Penryn have met to discern their vision and goals, which include improving the profile of church activities in the local community and amongst the groups that use their premises.

Mylor met with ecumenical representatives, identifying goals that involve a much greater cooperation across the congregations. Methodist volunteers have joined the existing team running 'Open the Book' and they have begun a joint initiative 'coffee at the gates' where refreshments are served at the church as parents gather to collect children from the neighbouring school.

Falmouth met over lunch after the service on June 10th, the results of this discussion were then discussed at a special church council the following week to plan a strategy of implementation.

It is understood that not all congregations need the deacon to be involved, but please share what you are doing with Jane so that it can be included in future newsletters, your stories could inspire others! **Carnkie**, for example, started the process within the context of worship using a simple model they'd be happy to share with any not sure where to start.

Learning together in small groups

Another Circuit goal is to encourage greater involvement in study and fellowship through small groups. As such we have been actively encouraging engagement in **Bible Month** - an opportunity for the whole church to engage with the same text across all activities, this year the theme is Jonah. In anticipation that new groups may 'spring up' the deacon prepared and ran some sessions to encourage small group leaders. Those who took up this offer found it helpful, as a result the resource will be made available on the circuit website, if there are more who would like to explore this together Jane is willing to hold another session.

It would be helpful to share the details of the study/fellowship groups that run across the circuit, as not everyone will be able to attend those provided in their own community.

The circuit would like to pull together a resource for those unsure what material may be suitable for their group. With this in mind Jane would like to ask those who already lead groups to suggest material you have found helpful (or not) so that this resource list can be made available. It has also been suggested that a small group could meet to discern what resources could actually be made available, in addition to the '40 stories of hope' already available to borrow (currently held at the Falmouth Manse). One helpful resource that can help explore another of the circuits priorities – being open and welcoming- is available as a free download from the Methodist website at the link/address below;

<http://www.methodist.org.uk/for-ministers-and-office-holders/guidance-for-churches/welcome-and-invitation/first-impressions-count/>

A ministry of Wholeness in a hurting world

On Sunday 17th June we held a circuit service of wholeness and healing, when the Local Preachers and Worship Leaders explored the ministry of Christian healing at their June meeting it was suggested that we could provide more opportunities for people to ask for specific prayer. Alongside such initiatives as the recent Dementia awareness training, supporting those engaged with ministry with the bereaved, it has been suggested that the circuit may hold a specific service again. Given the needs of our communities, this is also something that individual congregations can be encouraged to explore, either offering opportunities for prayer within the context of a regular act of worship or holding specific services for this. Any congregation wanting to explore this could ask Deacon Jane to speak about this, or to draw a team together to help run a special service at their church.

National Weekend of Invitation

It was a joy to engage with those churches who embraced this opportunity to encourage the ministry of invitation. Examples include Mawnan Smith who held a walk and afternoon tea and Mylor who held a special family service to which, in addition to personal invitations, they invited the local scouts which started a conversation about other opportunities to work together.

Again please share your stories to encourage and inspire others, there will be opportunities to do this at future Circuit Meetings and through the newsletter.

Prayer Focus

- Guidance for the circuit, Ministers, Leadership, Meetings and church members, as we seek to be the people God requires us to be in this present age.
- That each Congregation may remain alert to what God is already doing and have the courage to join in.
- For the communities we serve, in their diversity, for peace, wisdom and an openness to God's all-embracing love.