



BORDERS MISSION CIRCUIT

Circuit Mission Plan

BEING & DOING

[through Faith, Hope and Love]

We are committed to supporting:

- personal spiritual growth and, by working together, enable every church to be a safe place of worship, welcome and acceptance in the name of Jesus Christ
- encourage and challenge our churches in demonstrating and sharing God's love in their communities

The Borders Mission Circuit came into being in September 2010 when four adjoining Circuits, Ashfield, Clay Cross, Ripley and South Normanton, amalgamated to create one of the largest Circuits in the United Kingdom at that time. Spread over the border between west Nottinghamshire and north-east Derbyshire its membership covers a wide spectrum of community backgrounds, rural, industrial and professional, meeting in church buildings of all sizes, some ancient and some modern.

The processes leading up to amalgamation gave us the opportunity to look again at our direction and re-focus our energies. This is reflected in the choice of name for the new Circuit which emphasises our primary objective - Mission Structures have been set up which we believe will help us achieve this with the help of the Holy Spirit.

Following discussions amongst the Circuit Leadership Team and based on the agreed Circuit 5 - Year Plan, the following missional objectives were formulated. These objectives will be reviewed as indicated and amendments made where circumstances have changed or when situations need them to be revisited.

Circuit Mission Plan – January 2025

Objective 1	Action	Resources	Timescale	Outcomes
<p>Continue to build on the relationship between Circuit and Churches.</p>	<p>Maintain a series of conversations with each church.</p> <p>Support churches in the areas of administration, property, finance, safeguarding etc. in accordance with the '5 Year Plan'.</p> <p>Enable churches to liaise with each other to share ideas and mutual support.</p> <p>Enable networking with other Circuits and District.</p>	<p>Circuit Leadership Team.</p> <p>Church Representatives.</p> <p>Lay Employees.</p> <p>Lay Office Holders.</p>	<p>On-going with periodic review.</p>	<p>Improved communication.</p> <p>Stronger identity of the churches belonging to the Circuit.</p>

Objective 2	Action	Resources	Timescale	Outcomes
<p>Adequately resource Churches and Circuit.</p>	<p>Succession Planning for Circuit and Church.</p> <p>Identify and strive to utilise the gifts and talents of individuals within the Churches.</p> <p>Training.</p> <p>Partnership working.</p> <p>Circuit Audit.</p> <p>Point churches to available worship resources.</p> <p>Seek Lay Authorisations to preside at the Lord's Supper in order to meet the need of members who may currently feel deprived.</p> <p>Encourage support of existing and new areas of chaplaincy work across the Circuit.</p>	<p>Church Council.</p> <p>Circuit Meeting.</p> <p>Ministers and CLT.</p> <p>District Learning Network Representative.</p> <p>Outside organisations that can provide suitable services to Circuit and Church.</p> <p>Lay Authorised People to preside.</p> <p>Authorised Chaplains identified to cover various chaplaincy opportunities that may arise.</p>	<p>Aim to complete succession planning by September 2025.</p> <p>On-going with periodic review.</p>	<p>New office holders.</p> <p>People taking on new roles.</p> <p>Recognising those churches that struggle to maintain current structures.</p> <p>Identify skills, gifts and abilities of people across the Circuit.</p> <p>More opportunity for the sharing in services of Holy Communion.</p> <p>An outward recognition of the work of the church and Circuit in the communities we serve.</p>

Objective 3	Action	Resources	Timescale	Outcomes
<p>Review the future of the churches and Circuit by considering the question:</p> <p><i>What is the future story of the Circuit?</i></p>	<p>Encourage churches to begin a conversation on the legacy they are to leave for their church.</p> <p>Liaise with churches to develop a response to the question posed regarding the future of the Circuit.</p>	<p>Circuit Leadership Team.</p>	<p>March 2026.</p>	<p>A coherent plan that identifies the options available to develop the mission and ministry of the Circuit.</p>
Objective 4	Action	Resources	Timescale	Outcomes
<p>Encourage the Spiritual growth within our churches.</p>	<p>Consider the worship life of the Circuit and maintaining worship each week including the provision of the sacraments as often as is feasible.</p> <p>Encourage churches to explore their worship needs.</p> <p>Provide opportunities for engaging with spirituality, eg quiet days, prayer meetings, Bible Studies, etc.</p> <p>Provide support to those who are housebound through the provision of a 'Home Communion' programme.</p>	<p>Ministers.</p> <p>Local Preachers.</p> <p>Worship Leasers.</p> <p>Retreat Centres.</p> <p>Courses and Training.</p> <p>Lay Authorised Leaders.</p>	<p>On-going.</p>	<p>New worship opportunities for churches and Circuit.</p> <p>Deeper sense of spirituality within the Circuit.</p> <p>A greater awareness of the support offered to those who struggle to engage with church due to age or infirmity.</p>