

Mission Team Report April Synod 2024

As a District, we are committed to growing a flourishing sustainable network of circuits of worshipping communities which are growing, evangelistic, justice-seeking, and inclusive in their outworking of the mission of God. To achieve this the District has a Mission team that is here to support you. Find out more [here](#).

A reminder that each year, the District approves and works on its Mission Development Plan; below is the progress that has been made. The plan can be found [here](#).

Growing

- New Places For New People- has begun its embedding process- see Revd Kim's FEAST report for further details on the progress made.
- Provision of in-person resourcing to Circuits on their re-shaping and prioritizing for mission. This has been delivered in various ways, including zoom, in-person 1-2-1 meetings, and whole Circuit day events.
- Along with the in-depth support above, each Circuit and or local Churches has had some level of input and support in various ways to focus on mission and growth.
- Mel has held three Circuit conversations around chaplaincy and new estate NPNP's
- Two ReNew (lay employees gathering) events have taken place—over 70 attendees across the two events. The next event takes place on the 23rd July 2024.
- Over 80 young people attended 3 Generate from the District. Tickets available from the 16th April 2024.
- The OneVoice podcast is now into season 2, and the partnership is flourishing. The guests have included Revd Calvin Cheung, Revd Bruce Thompson, and guests from ReNew, to name a few- Listen [here](#)

Team Leader comment- It is said that when growing bamboo, there is a period of 3 years for it to become established. Within that time much of that growth occurs is unseen (underground) Part of the Mission Team's role is to encourage, resource, and share the news of growth where it is occurring around the District. At the same time also nurtures those who are still in that waiting and dreaming season of what the next steps need to be. The word growing remains a part of our Mission Plan because we are challenged to keep seeing what the Circuits and Churches in the Northampton District will be in the years to come.

Evangelistic

- The Summer 2024 LOVE Is_ will be released on Synod Saturday. Link [here](#).
- Through existing and newly established relationships, the team have held numerous conversations around new evangelistic activities.
- Several small grants have been approved for funding that will actively focus on evangelism e.g. Lego church and toddler groups, warmspaces and youth groups. The encouragement is to look at the small grants available and see if you could apply for one. Click [here](#).
- District youth event exploration has begun with Methodist CYF team
- The partnership between Connexion and Mission Team Leader on running the evangelism for leaders course has taken place in the past few months. A future course will be available soon to join.
- The work of the Digital Enabler to equip churches for digital mission is a talking point at this years Synod and we are excited about what this role might offer the local church.

- The District Mission team along with volunteers from the District will be at the Hope and Anchor Methodist space at Greenbelt this year. Why not come and say hi?

Team Leader Comment- All disciples of Jesus are called to listen for, speak of, and live out the good news from their own experience, perspective, and relationship with God. While all are called to evangelism. Our hope is that through your engagement in the Summer of Love Is_. And other activities that the team offers that you might grow in your evangelistic confidence.

Justice Seeking

- Every Circuit attended the first Eco-Summit in October 2023 and subsequent meeting in February. Details of this can be found [here](#). The next meeting will be on the 8th May 2024.
- A small working stream has been established the Net Zero group, which will work on policy and ideas that the DE will receive and consider further.
- The embedding of the justice-seeking report is still an area that needs work. This is mainly down to the waiting period for the implementation plan, as agreed by the conference, to come to fruition
- The work at the margins has been a key part of our NPNP conversations. More thinking has been given to this with the Mission team. This will be a question for the DE to consider.
- Lets End Poverty- More details in the Synod to follow
- MAPJ grants have finally been awarded! So far £5350!

Team Leader Comment- As Christians we are called actively to do justice, show loving kindness and walk humbly with God. This invitation is at the heart of **A Methodist Way of Life**. There is a growing need for us to continue deepen our commitment to being justice seeking with a general election looming and poverty in the UK only getting worse.¹ As a team we will continue to develop ways to engage with the justice seeking report and want to hear and share your stories of justice seeking engagement, just like this one from Cornerstone click [here](#).

Inclusive

- Safeguarding has been a key part of the work of embedding our NPNP. The ongoing partnership between the new Mission and Safeguarding team remains a priority.
- Work with the JDS group continues to be an area of investment of time and energy. Supporting the gatherings and the participants in their ideas. See the JDS Synod report for more details on the coloration between District group and Mission tea,
- The New District Digital Enabler will work to make our gatherings more accessible and inclusive for all.

Team Leader Comment- We believe that all people are uniquely made in the image of God, and we aim to live this out in the Church and in our communities. The Mission Team's involvement in the JDS District group has brought new resources for the District and Connexion to use. The partnership between the new safeguarding team and mission team continues to prove fruitful.

¹ <https://www.jrf.org.uk/uk-poverty-2024-the-essential-guide-to-understanding-poverty-in-the-uk#:~:text=In%20October%202023%2C%20around%3A,having%20enough%20money%20for%20food.>