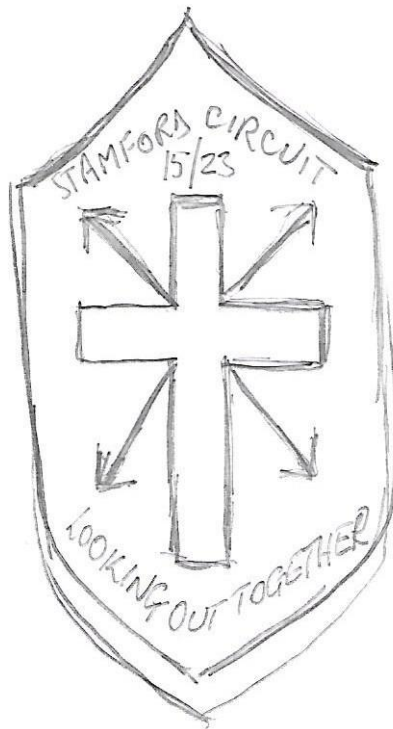


The Methodist Church

The Stamford Circuit

Page | 1

23/15



A suggested circuit logo

The making of a circuit

2017

Introduction

In 2013 a process began between the South Lincolnshire and Stamford & Rutland Circuits to discuss the possibility of becoming one circuit.

Now, in 2017, we have the necessary permissions to go ahead with the merger with effect from 1st September 2017 (subject to the Methodist Conference).

Preparations are being made at every level of the circuit's life beginning with the sharing of information with the local churches and seeking prayerful support from everyone.

The name of the new circuit is to be **THE STAMFORD CIRCUIT** as agreed at a joint Circuits Meeting in December 2016 held at Ryhall Methodist Church.

This booklet aims to set out what the new circuit will look like and how it will function.

Please read it carefully and prayerfully. If you wish to offer to be part of any of the circuit groups or committees, please speak to one of the ministers in the first instance.

The Circuit Churches

Bourne	Abbey Road, Bourne PE10 9EF Minister: Rev Ruth Charlesworth
Deepings	Church Street, Deeping St James PE6 8TL Minister: Rev Ruth Charlesworth
Empingham	Main Street, Empingham LE15 8PR Minister: Rev Leo Osborn
Ketton	Bull Lane, Ketton PE9 3TB Minister: Rev Andy Fyall
Oakham	Northgate, Oakham LE15 6FH Minister: Rev Leo Osborn
Ryhall	Mill Lane, Ryhall PE9 4HF Minister: Rev Andy Fyall Lay Pastor: Charlotte Pridmore
Somerby	High Street, Somerby LE14 2PZ Minister: Rev Leo Osborn
Stamford	11 Barn Hill, Stamford PE9 2AE Minister: Rev Andy Fyall
Thurlby	High Street, Thurlby PE10 0ED Minister: Rev Ruth Charlesworth
Uppingham	Orange Street, Uppingham LE15 9SQ Minister: Rev Leo Osborn

The Circuit Ministry Team

CHAIR OF THE NORTHAMPTON METHODIST DISTRICT

Rev Helen Cameron

Page | 4

SUPERINTENDENT MINISTER:

Rev Andy Fyall

OTHER MINISTERS APPOINTED TO THE CIRCUIT:

Rev Leo Osborn

Rev Ruth Charlesworth

Rev Helen Fyall (Hospital Chaplain)

Rev William Booker (without appointment)

Rev Sara Cliff (without appointment)

LAY MEMBERS OF THE MINISTRY TEAM

Mr Philip Jones ME (Circuit Mission Enabler)

Mrs Charlotte Pridmore (Lay Pastor, Ryhall)

Mr Luke Denley (Stamford Youth Outreach Worker)

FORCES CHAPLAINS RESIDING IN THE CIRCUIT

None at present

SUPERNUMERARY MINISTERS

Sister Eileen Rogers

Rev Neville Ashton

Rev Brian Newbold

Rev John Ansley

Rev Richard Baggott

Rev Barry Gent MA

Rev Brian Lewis BA

Rev Chris Bamber

Rev Maureen Jones

Rev David Bosworth

Rev Dr Christine Pocock

Rev Fred Day

Rev Julia Dowding

Deacon Roger Hensman

LOCAL PREACHERS

1939	Mrs Marjorie Hotchkin
1952	Sister Eileen Rogers
1956	Mr Brian Jenkins
1961	Dr Terry Connellan
1962	Mr Harry Baker
1962	Mr Maurice Wade
1963	Mr John Holt
1965	Mr Richard Snowden
1970	Mr David Thompson
1971	Mr Len Burwell
1972	Mr Keith Mayes
1973	Mr Tony Law
1976	Mrs H Jenny Haden
1976	Mr John Haden
1978	Mr Phil D V Jones
1978	Dr Chris H Sworn
1979	Mr Richard Bailey
1980	Mr Robert E Ford
1983	Mr John Allen
1983	Mr John Bassill
1984	Mrs Linda Bosworth
1987	Miss Margaret Stones
1987	Mrs Ruth Scholfield
1990	Mr William J G Sheppard
1991	Mr Don Nicholls
1991	Mr Iain Cameron
1991	Mrs Audrey Hensman
1991	Mr Carl Love
1992	Mrs Sarah Atwell-King
1994	Mrs Margaret Durdey
1994	Mrs Joyce Hearn
1996	Dcn Roger Hensman
1996	Mr Christopher J Pursehouse
1997	Mr Bill Cross

1999 Mrs Jenny Whatley
1999 Mrs Sheila Wolfenden
1999 Mr Michael L Coates
2000 Mrs Brenda Smith
2000 Mr Ernest Fytche
2002 Miss Marion Kelham
2006 Mr Ron Curtis
2008 Mrs Cheryl Allen
2008 Mrs Beryl Teasdale
2010 Mrs Viv Angele
2010 Mrs Moyra Collins
2010 Mr Luke Denley
2010 Mrs Charlotte Pridmore
2012 Mr Christopher Ballard
2014 Mr Richard Waller

ON TRIAL

2014 Mrs Sandra Woodhouse

ON NOTE

2015 Mrs Marion Roberts
2016 Mrs Ellen Whiffen
2016 Mrs Anne McAlpine

Worship Leaders

Bourne

Mr Peter Wright

Empingham

Mr & Mrs Ian and Eileen Ray

Stamford

Julia Husbands
Corinna Selby
Margaret Durdey

Circuit Leadership Team

Circuit Stewards

The circuit stewards are responsible, with the Superintendent and the ministers and probationers appointed to the Circuit, for the spiritual and material well-being of the Circuit, and for upholding and acting upon the decisions of the Circuit Meeting.

They also have the particular rights and duties set out in Standing Orders 532 to 534 regarding invitations, manses etc.

In discharging those responsibilities and duties it is desirable that the circuit stewards shall:

- (i) be sensitive to the needs of the ministers and probationers and their families;
- (ii) meet with the ministers and probationers at least twice each year, before the Circuit Meeting;
- (iii) keep themselves informed of the activities of each Local Church in the Circuit; and
- (iv) be aware of district and connexional policies as they affect the Circuit and its Local Churches.

In exercising these responsibilities current Circuit Stewards have said that the following attributes are needed:

- Pastoral sensitivity with a broad vision and constant seeking after God's guidance
- A listening ear, empathy, confidentiality and a helping hand

The Circuit Stewards are namely:

Ian Husbands, Moyra Collins, Phil Jones CS, Sarah Burke, Nina Rawlins and AnneMarie Niemann.

Circuit Leadership Team Meeting

The Circuit Stewards and Circuit Ministry Team to consider, discuss and pray for the mission and ministry of the circuit. The CLT meets about 6 times per year.

Policies and Statements

(to be presented to joint S&R and SLC Circuit Meeting on 15th June 2017)

Circuit Mission Statement

In partnership with other Christians, the ten churches of the Stamford Circuit exist to:

- spread the Good News of the life changing love of God as seen in Jesus Christ and experienced through the Holy Spirit
- Enable individuals and groups to grow in faith and commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ
- demonstrate God's love for all people
- encourage and support each other in seeking and fulfilling the will of God

Page | 8

Circuit Policy

We work together towards the above aims as follows:

Worship

- To offer our best to God in heartfelt praise, honest reflection and prayerful concern
- Offering worship styles to meet a range of spiritual needs and , so far as is possible, relevant to the society in which we live
- On-going training of preachers and worship leaders, and encouraging people to respond to the call of God

Nurture

- Supporting and training all who work with children and young people.
- Offering appropriate Bible study, fellowship groups, prayer groups and study courses.
- Encourage folk to consider becoming a part of God's community, the Church.

Pastoral Care

- Maintaining and developing effective pastoral care networks for people of all ages within and beyond the Church.
- Emphasising the importance of our circuit family in mutual care and support
- Providing safe space for all.

Sharing the Good News of Christ

- Inviting those involved in church and community groups to meet Christ and grow in Christian faith .
- Creating opportunities and enabling our people to share faith in relevant ways.
- Creating opportunities to offer children Christian faith through holiday clubs, weeknight activities and schools work.

Service

Both at home and in the world context:

- Prayerfully and intentionally supporting those who work out their faith in secular employment or voluntary work.
- Meeting people's needs as God calls us, wherever possible and appropriate, with other agencies.
- Enacting social justice and supporting the World Church.
- Supporting and standing with the poor and the marginalised.

Encouraging participation in all the above by each congregation both locally and circuit-wide.

Draft Policy Statement on Safeguarding for the Stamford Circuit (23/15)

(to be presented to joint S&R and SLC Circuit Meeting on 15th June 2017)

As the people of the Stamford Circuit we are concerned with the wholeness of each individual within God's purpose for everyone.

We seek to safeguard all members of our church communities of all ages.

Page | 9

Children and Young People

It is the responsibility of each one of us to prevent physical, sexual, spiritual or emotional abuse of children and young people and make the Church a safe space for all.

It is the duty of everyone in the circuit and church communities, not least those who work with children and young people, to prevent abuse and to report abuse discovered or suspected at whatever level and by whoever perpetrated to the appropriate authority.

We agree to comply with the guidelines and best practice formulated from the Connexional booklet, 'Safeguarding'. It can be found here:

<http://www.methodist.org.uk/downloads/safe-update-3-1110-childrenandyoungpeople.pdf>

We commit ourselves to the prayerful support of all our workers with children and young people recognising that they undertake this calling of God on our behalf.

Vulnerable Adults.

As members of this circuit, we commit ourselves to the safeguarding of vulnerable adults and ensuring their care, equal place and status in the life of this church.

It is the responsibility of each of us to prevent the physical, emotional, sexual, financial and spiritual abuse of vulnerable adults and to report any such abuse that we discover or suspect.

We undertake to exercise proper care in the appointment and selection of those who will work with vulnerable adults.

The circuit is committed to supporting, resourcing and training those who undertake this work. The circuit endorses the policy of the Churches' Agency for Safeguarding.

Each person who works with vulnerable adults will agree to abide by these recommendations and the guidelines established.

As a caring church we are aware of the responsibility in implementing child protection policies and guidelines, to have regard to the needs of both adult and child survivors of abuse and also the management of offenders within the life of the Church.

THE STRUCTURE OF THE STAMFORD CIRCUIT

The Circuit Meeting

Chair of the Northampton District

Presbyters, Deacons and Supernumerary ministers appointed to the Circuit.
Methodist Chaplains to local forces establishments (as observers by invitation).

Circuit stewards:

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Sarah Burke | 2. Moyra Collins |
| 3. Phil Jones (CS) | 4. AnneMarie Niemann |
| 5. Ian Husbands | 6. Nina Rawlins |

Staff employed by the Circuit:

<i>Administrator</i>	Rowan Scholtz
<i>Children & Families Worker</i>	Helen Fyall
<i>Mission Enabler</i>	Phil Jones
<i>Voluntary Lay Pastor(s)</i>	Charlotte Pridmore

A steward, the treasurer, a member and an additional member for every 50 members of each local church

Ex officio members:

<i>PAG reps</i>	Jean Suff; Clive Ashby; Rev Julia Dowding; Dr Ken Stewart
<i>PWL rep</i>	
<i>MWiB rep(s)</i>	
<i>Public Issues forum rep</i>	
<i>CRG rep</i>	Polly Moverley

The Circuit Meeting gathers four times during each Connexional year to exercise oversight of the circuit. The February and June meetings focus on prayer and the sharing of vision for the mission and ministry of the circuit.

Reps to the Representative Session of the Synod

The synod is a District Gathering which meets twice per year where each Circuit is represented by local church members. The synod deals with matters of mission and ministry within the District and is led by the Chair of the District. We must elect 6 members from the Stamford Circuit.

- | | | |
|----|----|----|
| 1. | 2. | 3. |
| 4. | 5. | 6. |

Circuit Staff Meeting

All involved in the day to day active ministry of the circuit.

Church treasurers' Annual Meeting

Staff link person: Rev Andy Fyall

Local church treasurers meeting in January / February each year to agree the apportionment of the annual circuit assessment.

Property Advisory Group (PAG)

Staff Link person: Rev Andy Fyall

The Property Advisory Group is a small working group who oversee matters to do with circuit properties (chapels and manses) on a project by project basis.

Current coordinator: Jean Suff

Members of the group:

Jean Suff, Clive Ashby, Rev Julia Dowding, Ken Stewart ++

Preachers & Worship Leaders Meeting

Chair: the Superintendent Minister

Current Secretary: Jenny Whatley

This is a quarterly meeting of all preachers (lay and ordained) and worship leaders within the circuit.

The meeting deals with the oversight and training of preachers and worship leaders.

The meeting also exercises a function to enable continuing development, support and encouragement of all those involved with these ministries.

There is an annual service of Holy Communion held at the beginning of each Connexional Year during which the Preachers and Worship Leaders renew their commitment to their calling.

Circuit Resource Group

Staff Link Person: Phil Jones (ME)

Current Co-ordinator: Polly Moverley

The Circuit Resource Group plans and runs various activities for spiritual growth and stimulation throughout the year. Examples of such gatherings are:

Quiet days,

Study Days (such as 'Reflecting on the work of chaplains' and 'Medical Ethics and Christian faith')

Training days (for pastoral visitors and church stewards).

Members of the group:

Phil Jones, Polly Moverley, Leo Osborn, Ruth Charlesworth, Moyra Collins, Andy Fyall ++

MWiB (Methodist Women in Britain) Group

Staff link person: Ruth Charlesworth

Current coordinators: Elizabeth Heathcote, Nina Rawlins and Elizabeth Walters (Bourne)

MWiB is an organisation which brings together creative spirituality, a passion for global social justice and mission. At the core is worship, and from there grows the challenge to live as disciples of Christ in today's world, supporting, encouraging and acting for the good of all.

Public Issues Forum

Staff Link Person: Leo Osborn

Current coordinator: Helen Baggott

The Public Issues Forum is an ad hoc gathering which meets twice a year. It is open for anyone to attend who has an interest in addressing issues of social justice and current affairs from a Christian perspective.

The forum offers all attendees the opportunity to share their issues and concerns for conversation, debate and prayer.

It is the express intention of each gathering that we will agree on practical ways of addressing the issues raised.

Circuit Mission Team

Staff link and coordinator: Phil Jones (ME)

A working group to consider outreach and mission across the circuit and to develop mission policy and strategy for the circuit.

This group will meet as often as needed to support initiatives in the local churches and specifically encourage the making of more disciples of Jesus.

Circuit Social Group

Staff link: Ruth Charlesworth

Coordinator: Ian Husbands

A working group to discuss and plan for various social events across the circuit and for the circuit.

Examples of these kind of events have been the trivia quiz and the Barn dance at Normanton Lodge Farm.

Circuit Worship Planning

Staff link: Andy Fyall

The Circuit Services exist to offer excellent preaching and worship which relates to the life, mission and ministry of the wider circuit. It is essential that friends from the local churches offer their help in planning these acts of worship to ensure that they properly reflect the life of the circuit.

This group will meet to plan the Quarterly Circuit Services along with members of the Circuit Ministry Team.

There are also the 'Circuit Prayer & Praise' gathering which offer informal, contemporary worship at various churches around the circuit.

Circuit Children & Youth

Staff link: Luke Denley

A new working group to offer support and share ideas for work with children and young people across the circuit.

This ad hoc group would meet maybe twice per year.