

MISSION STRATEGY 2026 - 2030

Growing in Faith. Reaching Our Communities. Transforming Lives Together.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Enfield Methodist Circuit is a family of eight churches, serving the communities of the London Borough of Enfield and the neighbouring Borough of Broxbourne in Hertfordshire. Though each church has its own character, history, and community context, we share a common calling: to seek out what God is doing and join in; to make Christ known; to make disciples; and to transform our communities through the power of the Holy Spirit.

This Mission Strategy builds on our Previous Missional Commitments, the insights gathered from the Circuit Vision Day and local church mission conversations, and the realities of our geography, staffing, finances, and volunteer capacity. It is shaped by the Methodist conviction that the Circuit is the primary unit of mission, and that God calls us to dream beyond our current resources. It is a strategy for growth, collaboration, and Spirit-led mission.

2. OUR THEOLOGICAL FOUNDATION FOR MISSION

We affirm that mission begins with God, not with us. Mission is not a programme or a set of tasks, nor is it about institutional survival or filling rotas. Mission is discerning where God is already at work and joining in. We believe that God is active in Enfield and Broxbourne, and that the Church is called to be a sign, instrument, and foretaste of God's Kingdom.

Mission extends beyond our buildings and Sunday gatherings. It requires courage, imagination, and faith, and it is work we undertake together, as one Circuit family. We commit ourselves to listening to God, listening to our communities, listening to one another, and acting boldly in faith.

3. CIRCUIT CONTEXT

3.1. Geography and Demography

The London Borough of Enfield is one of the most diverse boroughs in the United Kingdom, with a population of over 330,000 people. Around 40% of residents were born outside the UK, and more than 100 languages are spoken across the borough. The population is ethnically mixed, with approximately 36% White British, 18% Other White, 18% Black African, 8% Black Caribbean, 7% Asian, and a growing number of people identifying as Mixed or Other ethnicities. This diversity shapes the life of the Circuit and calls us to develop intercultural worship, inclusive leadership, and mission that reflects the richness of our communities.

Enfield is also a young borough, with nearly 25% of residents under the age of 18, yet it contains a significant older population, with 14% aged 65 and above. This dual demographic creates opportunities for children's and youth ministry, as well as ministry among those in the 'Third Age' or 'Grace Years'. The borough contains areas of affluence, but also some of the most deprived wards in London, with around one in three children living in poverty and over 20% of households experiencing fuel or food insecurity. These realities call the Circuit to a mission that is compassionate, justice-oriented, and deeply rooted in community presence.

The neighbouring Borough of Broxbourne, where Goffs Oak Methodist Church is situated, has a different demographic profile. Broxbourne is less ethnically diverse, with approximately 80% White British and smaller minority communities. It has a higher proportion of older adults, with over 20% of residents aged 65 and above, and a lower proportion of young people compared to Enfield. Home ownership is significantly higher, with around 70% of household's owner-occupied, compared to Enfield's 52%. Broxbourne is generally more affluent, with lower levels of deprivation, but it faces its own challenges, including social isolation among older adults and limited public transport links.

These demographic differences mean that mission cannot be one-size-fits-all. Enfield requires intercultural, youth-focused, community-embedded mission, while Broxbourne calls for relational, pastoral, and presence-based ministry. Together, these contexts offer a broad and varied mission field, inviting the Circuit to respond with flexibility, creativity, and focus on local needs.

3.2. Ministerial Deployment

The Circuit's ministry is currently served by three ordained presbyters. One presbyter has pastoral oversight of Edmonton Methodist Church, the largest congregation in the Circuit. A second presbyter serves Ponders End, Ordnance Road, and Goffs Oak. The third presbyter oversees Bush Hill Park, Grange Park, Southgate, and Trinity, supported by a Local Lay Pastor who assists with pastoral care, worship leadership, and community engagement. This deployment reflects the geographical spread, pastoral needs, and size of congregations.

3.3. Circuit Staff

The Circuit is supported by a Children & Youth Worker and an Administrative Officer. These roles are essential for mission, communication, and operational support, and will become increasingly important as the Circuit grows.

3.4. Governance and Financial Structure

The Circuit currently has four Circuit Stewards, though more are required to sustain governance, compliance, and mission development. Churches contribute annually to the Circuit's budget, which in turn supports ministry, staffing, property, and mission. The Circuit is assessed by the London District, which is assessed by the Connexional Team. Financial sustainability depends on growth, hall hire, giving, fundraising, and the sharing of resources.

3.5. Volunteer Capacity

Across the Circuit, churches report a decline in the number of volunteers. Many struggle to recruit Stewards, Treasurers, Property Officers, and Pastoral Visitors. Fewer volunteers are available for children's work, worship, and community outreach. Congregations are ageing, and the burden often falls on a small number of faithful individuals. This is a major strategic risk and must be addressed through succession planning, leadership & skills development, resource sharing, and the creation of paid roles where necessary.

4. MISSION PRINCIPLES

The Circuit affirms several guiding principles that shape our mission. We believe that mission begins with God, and our task is to discern where God is already at work and join in. Mission is not about maintaining the institution but about making disciples and participating in God's Kingdom. Churches must not limit their vision to their current resources; God calls us to dream beyond what seems possible. The Circuit is the primary unit of mission, and we are called to share resources, gifts, buildings, and people. Every church must articulate its mission clearly, and these mission statements must be prayerfully discerned, approved by Church Councils, shared with the Circuit, and reviewed annually. Mission conversations must be intentional and ongoing, supported by the Superintendent, Ministers, and Circuit Stewards.

5. LOCAL CHURCH MISSION CONVERSATIONS

The Circuit has already begun a significant and Spirit-led process of discerning mission together. During the recent Circuit Vision Day, representatives from across our eight churches gathered to reflect on God's calling, to share hopes and concerns, and to begin shaping the future direction of our shared mission. This Vision Day marked the beginning of a Circuit-wide movement of listening, reflection, and discernment, rooted in prayer and guided by the Holy Spirit.

Following this, local congregations not only Church Councils were encouraged to continue these conversations within their own contexts. Many churches have already held discussions in worship settings, fellowship groups, leadership gatherings, and informal spaces. These conversations have helped churches to articulate what they sense God is saying about their identity, their calling, and their place within their communities.

The purpose of this process is not simply to gather information but to cultivate a culture of ongoing discernment, where churches regularly ask, "What is the work of God among us?" Churches are encouraged to reflect on how God is shaping their life together, who they are in contact with in their neighbourhoods, and how newcomers experience their worship and fellowship. They are invited to consider where they find joy, where they struggle, what they may need to stop doing, and what risks they are prepared to take for the sake of the Gospel.

As these conversations continue, each church is now moving toward forming a clear mission aim and a three-year mission plan, grounded in prayer and shaped by the insights gathered so far. These plans will identify specific steps toward growth, reflecting both the unique context of each church and the shared priorities of the Circuit.

Once developed, these mission aims and plans will be brought to the Circuit Meeting, not as administrative reports but as expressions of shared accountability, mutual encouragement, and collective mission. The Circuit Meeting will celebrate what God is doing, offer support where needed, and allocate resources wisely and strategically. This process ensures that mission is not isolated within individual churches but is held together, as part of the wider calling of the Enfield Methodist Circuit.

This is not a one-off exercise. It is a progressive/living document. It is the beginning of a continual rhythm of intentional conversation and review, where churches and the Circuit together listen, discern, and respond to God's leading. Through this ongoing process, we seek to grow in faithfulness, effectiveness, and unity as we participate in God's mission across Enfield and Broxbourne.

6. STRATEGIC PRIORITIES (2026-2030)

Priority order reflects the Circuit's commitment to growth:

PRIORITY 1: OUTREACH & EVANGELISM

"Reaching people for Christ is our first work."

Outreach and evangelism stand at the heart of this Mission Strategy. Every church expressed a desire to grow, yet few have clear outreach plans. Enfield and Broxbourne offer rich opportunities for mission, and the Circuit recognises that evangelism strengthens fellowship, welcome, discipleship, and financial sustainability. The Gospel compels us to go out, not simply wait for people to come in.

The Circuit will therefore invest in relational evangelism training, equipping members to share their faith naturally and confidently. Churches will be encouraged to identify Evangelism Champions who will help lead local initiatives. Partnerships with schools, care homes, housing associations, and community organisations will be developed, enabling churches to serve their neighbourhoods more effectively. Community presence will be strengthened through prayer walks, street-level engagement, pop-up prayer stations, and testimony-driven worship. Alternative forms of worship such as café church, youth-led services, contemporary worship, and midweek gatherings – will be encouraged and supported. The Circuit will also coordinate large-scale mission events, such as Pentecost in the Park, outdoor carol services, and youth mission weekends. To support this work, the Circuit will produce shared evangelism resources, including leaflets, digital content, and testimony videos.

PRIORITY 2: DIGITAL MISSION & COMMUNICATION

"Digital presence is the new front door of the church."

In a digital age, visibility and communication are essential for mission. Many churches lack the skills or confidence to use digital tools effectively. The Circuit will therefore establish a Digital Mission Hub, bringing together volunteers with expertise in social media, design, photography and video. This team will create shared templates for posters, social media posts, newsletters, and livestreaming, ensuring consistency and quality across the Circuit. Training will be offered regularly, covering social media basics, digital safeguarding, livestreaming, and content creation. A shared digital asset library will be developed, containing photos, videos, and branding materials. The Circuit will also explore District Advance Fund support for digital equipment and the potential appointment of a part-time Digital Mission Coordinator.

PRIORITY 3: WELCOME, HOSPITALITY & RETENTION

"We don't just want visitors, we want disciples."

A warm, intentional welcome is essential for growth. The Circuit will develop a Welcome Framework that includes clear processes for greeting newcomers, collecting contact details, and following up within 48 hours. Churches will be encouraged to create welcome packs and ensure that signage and noticeboards are clear, attractive, and up to date. Welcome Stewards will receive training in hospitality, cultural sensitivity, disability awareness, and safeguarding. A Mystery Worshipper Programme will be introduced, enabling churches to receive constructive feedback on their welcome and worship experience. These steps will help ensure that visitors feel valued, included, and invited into deeper discipleship.

PRIORITY 4: FELLOWSHIP & COMMUNITY BUILDING*"Growing deeper as we grow wider."*

Fellowship is the soil in which discipleship grows. The Circuit will strengthen relationships within and between churches by hosting quarterly fellowship gatherings, rotating across the Circuit. Cross-Circuit small groups will be encouraged, enabling people to study Scripture, pray, and grow together beyond their local congregation. A shared events calendar will help churches collaborate on concerts, retreats, teaching days, and social events. These initiatives will deepen community, reduce isolation, and strengthen the sense of belonging across the Circuit.

PRIORITY 5: LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT & VOLUNTEER SUPPORT*"Raising leaders for a growing Circuit."*

The decline in volunteers is one of the Circuit's most pressing challenges. To address this, the Circuit will develop a Leadership Pathway that identifies and trains emerging leaders in worship, preaching, intercession, Bible study facilitation, and pastoral care. Churches will be encouraged to nominate individuals for training and mentoring. The Circuit will also recruit additional Circuit Stewards, aiming for a team of six to eight, with clear role descriptions and succession planning. Where volunteer capacity is insufficient, the Circuit will explore the creation of paid roles, ensuring that essential functions are sustained.

PRIORITY 6: RESOURCE SHARING & COLLABORATION*"No church grows alone."*

The Circuit is committed to sharing resources so that no church is left isolated or overwhelmed. A Circuit Skills Bank will be created, identifying individuals with expertise in finance, safeguarding, digital media, music, youth work, and property. Churches will be able to request support from this shared pool. A Resource Sharing Agreement will be developed, enabling churches to share volunteers, officers, musicians, and equipment. The Circuit will also review building usage, identifying opportunities for increased community engagement and hall hire. This collaborative approach will strengthen the whole Circuit and ensure that resources are used wisely and effectively.

PRIORITY 7: FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY & FUNDRAISING*"Funding mission, not just maintenance."*

Financial sustainability is essential for mission. The Circuit will launch a Stewardship Campaign encouraging regular giving, standing orders, and Gift Aid. Churches will be supported in teaching biblical stewardship and communicating the impact of giving. The Circuit will also pursue external fundraising through grants, corporate partnerships, and community events. As mission grows, the Circuit will consider the creation of paid roles such as a Digital Mission Coordinator, Operations Manager, Community Outreach Worker, or Fundraising Officer. These roles will be introduced as resources allow, ensuring that mission is supported by the capacity it requires.

7. IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE

The Mission Strategy will unfold in four phases:

Phase 7.1

The first year will focus on laying foundations: establishing the Digital Hub, implementing the Welcome Framework, creating the Skills Bank, hosting the first Circuit Fellowship Gathering, and designing the Leadership Pathway.

Phase 7.2

The second year will focus on growth: rolling out digital templates, launching the Mystery Worshipper Programme, forming cross-Circuit small groups, delivering outreach training, and recruiting additional Circuit Stewards.

Phase 7.3

The third year will consolidate progress: strengthening digital presence, deepening community partnerships, and supporting churches in reporting increased attendance and engagement.

Phase 7.4

By the fourth and fifth years, the Circuit aims to flourish: establishing paid roles where needed, achieving financial sustainability, and embedding a culture of shared mission and collaborative growth.

8. CONCLUSION

This Mission Strategy is bold, realistic, and rooted in the lived experience of our churches. It acknowledges our challenges – declining volunteers, stretched ministers, financial pressures – but it also embraces our opportunities. By placing Outreach and Evangelism at the top, we commit ourselves to the work Christ has called us to do. We are a diverse Circuit with resilience, creativity, and a deep desire to grow. Together, we can become a Circuit that reaches out to the community, welcomes, supports disciples, and transforms evangelism.