

Circuit Report

As a Methodist/Anglican Local Ecumenical Project (LEP) Saint Andrew's Psalter Lane is a member of the Sheffield Methodist Circuit. The Circuit is a long, fairly thin strip of land (about 10 miles wide at the widest point) extending from just south of Barnsley down into North Derbyshire, roughly along the line of the A61. It comprises 54 churches of which 10 are ecumenical projects or equivalent. The ministerial team is led by the Superintendent (Romeo Pedro - currently on sabbatical).

This consists of 14 serving Methodist ministers, some clergy from other denominations attached to the LEPs and a number of retired clergy and ministers, some of whom are still active. There are also 63 Local Preachers (the nearest equivalent is an Anglican Lay Reader), not all of whom are available for appointments.

A number of people are moving on. The current Chair of the Sheffield District (next layer up from the Circuit) is leaving in the summer. The new Chair will be Vicky Atkins who will arrive in the autumn. Jill Pullan will be on sabbatical from May to July 2025 and will then move to the York Circuit.

The Methodist Conference responded to the memorial (Methodist for resolution) asking Methodism to publicly express solidarity with Daoud Nassar and family, who have welcomed countless visitors to Palestine through the Tent of Nations. The Secretary of the Conference has made representations to the UK and Israeli governments. Sheffield Circuit has recently become a member of Let's end Poverty, a broad coalition of like-minded organisations working together to keep reduction of structural poverty at the forefront of political discourse. §Let's End Poverty receives some national administrative support from Methodism.

Concern was expressed that, despite the reorganisation of the Circuit and the efforts of churches the regular income still does not cover the cost of our core operations (including ministerial staffing.) This issue needs to be addressed urgently. Further information about what goes on in the Circuit can be found in the circuit email newsletter, distributed every two weeks. Follow the link at www.sheffieldcircuit.org.uk/newsroom/weekly-newsletter.html to subscribe.