

## **16<sup>th</sup> March Peterborough Circuit Day Reflections**

**What decision does the Circuit need to make in the next twelve to eighteen months? E.g. selling of manse and application for District funding. What other decisions are there to make?**

**Elton, Orton Waterville, Oundle and Yaxley-** Manses should be kept and rented out where possible. We need to seek a vision from God before applying for anything. A decision needs to be made about Elton

**Dogsthorpe-** Central Circuit core with satellite model (Where is the question?)

Is there a plan for growth or just simply dyeing?

Communication- how can we ensure that we communicate well so that everyone or as many as possible get the information needed.

How are we serving Peterborough new areas?

What is our USP or niche? How can we strengthen this and move forward with a growth plan

**Southside-** Cut expenses

One minister would not be able to serve the amount of churches we have currently.

Identify younger people who might have a call to be trained

Need to apply for District funding

**Brookside**

Are there other assets that could be sold to raise funds.

How does the church renew itself?

Are we focusing on finance and not vision?

Is worship the problem? How can we change this?

Could smaller numerical membership churches become classes of larger churches?

**Whittlesey and Crowland-**

Hub Church model

Mission Team Leader Comments - (To be added)

**What is the right shape for the Circuit?**

**Elton, Orton Waterville, Oundle and Yaxley-** Community and relational. Connections with midweek groups. Ecumenical relationships, working together well. Mid-week activities e.g. lego church, messy church or toddler groups. Need to increase giving and a clearer appeal needs to be made.

**Dogsthorpe-** Local Community work- who is going to do this when many volunteers are over 65?

**Southside-** Combine church together that will be as central for everyone where possible. Adopt a satellite model and establish more housegroups, these decisions need to be made by September 2024

**Brookside and Whittlesey-** N/A

*Mission Team Leader Comments – The Circuit should work on what a restructured model might look like. A ‘Sectional’ approach seems to be the most appropriate approach for the CLT to consider and engage with local churches. This model would enable a strategic approach to buildings and gifts in each location without disempowerment. The hub model would work well if there were unity on locating the centre Peterborough locations together. At present, this needs more work and, most importantly, the buy-in from the worshipping communities to desire to go down that route.*

*There is a strong sense that manse/s should be retained as much as possible to a) bring in rental income but also be retained in the hope that an ordained or lay leader might use them. Is this a reality that can be done?*

*Lastly, how can the Circuit Service be a springboard for a ‘renewed’ sense of worship style?*

## **What Bold Vision ideas do you have?**

**Elton, Orton Waterville, Oundle and Yaxley-** Better communication between CLT, Circuit meetings and church representative to Circuit meeting need to feedback to churches well. Diversity in church worship styles for all ages. Each church needs to know what their niche is and focus on that.

Dogsthorpe- Be realistic about all our buildings and conduct a feasibility study on each. A gifting audit which sees the Circuit recognise the gifts it has across the whole picture. Do we need to look at merging with another circuit?

**Brookside-** How do we introduce Jesus to people who attend our weekday activities

Less Church more Christ

**Whittlesey and Crowland-** Music groups, utilise hiring opportunities and increase communication

**Southside-** Increase the diversity in worship and make it more accessible for others

Communicate better

*Mission Team Leader Comments – Compared to January, there were fewer ‘bold’ ideas written down. Understandably, as the thought of closure is felt, the ideas birthed are differing in shape and thought. Nevertheless, having each building reviewed for its missional and sustainability purpose would be valuable. This is something that can be done in the summer with the Circuit property steward.*

*Communication arose as a key area. Can the CLT develop a communication pattern that is regular and formatted in a way that is used in the local church. Is there a streamlining of the communication process possible?*

**How can we support a growth in faith and finance and explore ideas to ensure a financially sustainable Circuit?**

**Elton, Orton Waterville, Oundle and Yaxley-** Encourage tithing and commitment through a renewed vision. Need to economise and manage resources well from the grass roots right to the top. There is a need to know the finances are being managed efficiently.

**Southside-** Money will come when Vision is clear and set. However, need to recognise that the cost of living has squeezed the ability of people to give more.

Whittlesey and Crowland- Utilize the building and hiring well. Run events that will help draw in income.

**Brookside-** Faith increases the finances will follow

**Dogsthorpe-** District funding to create a core building. Circuit needs to create a expected giving plan. Need to create a plan for growth and the finances will come.

*Mission Team Leader Comments - The current Vision is clear from the Circuit- 'The Peterborough Methodist Circuit aims to be the people of God within our communities, sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ and showing God's love through worship, witness and service.' However, how can this be used in a consistent manner through Circuit and local church activities to enable Vision and finance to mutually flourish?*

*District funding can be applied for but shouldn't be the only stream that is considered. Local giving should be explored as it has been.*

*Circling back to the beginning, if the Churches themselves begin to vision a Sectional or Hub Model this would enable the finances to be used in a radically different and exciting way. This itself, might provide the vision that was desired from the meeting In March.*

### **General Observations for a Meeting 3 to Occur.**

If a third meeting is happening these are some of the areas that could be tabled for conversation.

The exploration of a sectional vs hub model approach. Is this appropriate and if so what do local churches want 'in' on this way forward? Alongside this conversation, the value of joint services could be explored as a way of bringing congregations together away from the much-celebrated Circuit services.

The role of New Places for New People FEAST (Friends Exploring and sharing together) how can a renewed Peterborough Methodist Circuit with worshipping communities co-create a new network of worshipping communities?

An agreed Circuit Mission Plan for the next 12 months- detailing the actions and by whom for example:

| Priority  | Action  | Person  | Timescale   | Fruit  |
|---|---|---|---|--|
| We will build up individuals and congregations in faith.                    | Circuit Prayer gathering  | CLT+ Circuit Meeting?                           | 12 months   |  |
| Agree on organisational structure for the Circuit for Connexional year 2025 | To consult the Churches of the Peterborough Circuit on the 'model' that should be adopted for the Circuit | CLT and Circuit Meeting and individual churches | 9 months to be decide (insert Circuit meeting date in 2025) | For the Circuit to have a new Circuit structure that would enable the flourishing of the specified gifts for each individual worshipping community.<br><br>A sharing of financial resource between worshipping communities |
| The letting go of things of the past which have completed their work        |   |   |   |  |
| Develop a clearer communication pattern                                     |   |   |   |  |