

## Our Calling

*Updated*

Our calling as part of the Methodist Church is to:

1. worship
2. learning and caring
3. service
4. evangelism

### Worship

We long for our worship to be sustainable, encouraging the local presence but also valuing those things that we can do better together. Our worship should:

- meet a variety of needs
- be real and relevant
- enable all people to take an active part
- be on behalf of all our community
- encourage people to develop and use their gifts
- should be taken into every day life
- explore the whole range of human experience
- engage with people on many different levels
- engage with people in times of personal, local, national and international crisis

### Learning and Caring

We long for our churches to be places where individuals can grow in discipleship and where all people feel welcomed and cared for. Our churches should be places where:

- All can grow and learn as disciples
- All can gain confidence in the Christian faith and their Methodist heritage
- All can play a part in ministry
- All can recognise their own gifts and use them both in the church and outside the church
- We nurture caring people
- We nurture an open welcoming church
- Groups that help those who are vulnerable are nurtured
- Where discipleship in the whole of life is encouraged.

## Service

We long for our churches to be places where as individuals and as groups we recognise our role in serving our communities. Our churches will be places where:

- We encourage all to get involved in justice issues
- The preaching and teaching is relevant to issues of justice
- All are encouraged to play their part in local issues
- Opportunities are provided for the church to get involved in wider issues
- We respond effectively to local emergencies
- We provide a safe haven for those who need one
- We provide a safe place where people can talk about issues that matter to them
- We provide a safe, caring environment for all people particularly vulnerable groups.
- Individuals are encouraged to serve not only in the church but in the wider community.
- We will work with our ecumenical partners to work for justice
- We will work with other organisations who are working for issues of justice

## Evangelism

We long for our churches to be centres for reaching out in love with the gospel to those around them. Our churches will

- Encourage each individual to have confidence to share their faith appropriately
- Encourage work with baptismal families and wedding couples
- Encourage the pastoral care of bereaved families
- Encourage appropriate work with schools
- Look for ways to work with confidence with young people
- Promote the work of the churches
- Be places where the preaching and teaching will equip people to relate their faith to everyday life
- Be a visible sign of Gods presence, forgiveness and love in all our communities
- Work with our ecumenical partners, wherever possible.

**In all we do we seek to do it with our ecumenical partners.**