Chorley and Leyland Methodist Circuit Worship Strategy

Worship in the Methodist Church is the joyful offering of **thanks and praise to God**, celebrating who God is and what God has done, in the power of the Holy Spirit. It is both **communal** and **everyday**, taking place in gathered services and in the lived experience of discipleship.

Methodist worship is shaped by several core elements:

- **Giving glory to God** and drawing people into God's presence, regardless of worship style.
- **Reading, preaching and or** exploring **Scripture**, expecting the Holy Spirit to speak through the Bible.
- **Prayer**, expressed through praise, confession, thanksgiving, intercession, petition, and dedication.
- **Singing**, which teaches faith, expresses devotion, and inspires mission.
- **The Sacraments**, namely Baptism and Holy Communion, as "outward and visible signs of inward and spiritual grace."

Worship is also central to the Methodist Church's mission. The Church can only live out its calling to evangelism, justice, compassion, and discipleship when it remains **rooted in worship and prayer**, which shape the identity and witness of the Christian community.

Worship "knits us into a faith community," refreshes us by God's grace, and naturally leads to mission as its "inevitable consequence."

Worship is the heartbeat of Methodist life — forming disciples, sustaining mission, strengthening community, and glorifying God.

Purpose of This Circuit Worship Strategy

Building on the Methodist Church's understanding of worship, this Circuit Worship Strategy aims to:

- Ensure **sustainable, high-quality worship** across all churches.
- Deploy Local Preachers, Ministers, Worship Leaders, and lay teams **fairly and effectively**.
- Support churches in offering worship that is **accessible, safe, missional, and varied**.
- Provide a clear, structured system for churches to contribute to Circuit worship provision.
- Strengthen collaboration, safeguarding, accountability, and good practice across the Circuit.

To achieve this, we are asking each church to offer a minimum of 3 acts of worship to each quarterly plan. These may need to be increased when the plan is being made to accommodate the pressures of the plan. It may be a combination of the options and sometimes the circuit may still need local arrangements or joint acts of worship to be given because of the number of acts of worship required on a given Sunday at a given time.

These options ensure fairness, sustainability, and flexibility while maintaining safeguarding and Methodist standards.

Chorley and Leyland Methodist Circuit Worship Strategy

Afternoon Worship

The church agrees with the superintendent and the Circuit Compliance, governance & Administration Officer (responsible for safeguarding and governance) to move its its usual worship to an afternoon. Agreeing specific Sunday's so that it is systematic with other church's.

Purpose:

- Reduces pressure on morning preacher availability.
- Allows flexible deployment of Local Preachers and ministers.
- Supports alternative worship formats if desired.

Invited Preachers

Churches may host invited preachers on Sundays jointly agreed by the Local Church, The Superintendent Minister (responsible for the preaching plan) and The Circuit Compliance, governance & Administration Officer (responsible for safeguarding and governance)

1. Before each quarter, the local church, the Superintendent and Compliance Office agree which Sundays the local church are going to invite preachers on.
2. Churches submit the names of invited preachers (if known).
3. The Superintendent confirms the preacher is in good standing with the Methodist Church.
4. The Compliance Office confirms safeguarding compliance.

Any invited preachers fees are to be paid by the local church- this includes travel fee and also the preaching fee.

Local Arrangements

The church provides Local Arrangement services. These are led by its own worship team, stewards, worship leaders musicians.

Purpose:

- Reduces demand on Local Preachers
- Encourages lay development
- Supports creativity and contextual worship

Requirements:

- Must follow Methodist worship guidelines including those for local arrangements
- Worship leaders must be appropriately trained
- The Circuit will provide training for supporting local arrangements

Chorley and Leyland Methodist Circuit Worship Strategy

Joint Services

The church partners with another church to provide an agreed number of joint worship services per quarter.

Purpose:

- Reduces total preacher demand
- Strengthens Circuit unity
- Allows shared resources (music, tech, worship leaders)

- Churches agree hosting rotation
- Joint services may be morning or afternoon

Other options may be appropriate for local church context and these are welcomed. This strategy is a work in progress.

Annually we shall worship together for a Circuit Service in a Morning.

What is required from each church will constantly need to be reviewed, in the next 12-18 months with staffing changes, sabbaticals and change in local preachers circumstances.

In Summary

Each church needs to provide a minimum of 3 acts of worship per quarter, this can be a combination of invited preachers, local arrangements, joint services or a single service at an alternative time to Sunday mornings. For this to work we all require flexibility and good communication.

To assist with planning, a proposed structure for when churches would hold a service to help with the plan would look as follows, with flexibility occasionally as required by both sides. This would mean we have 2 churches each Sunday doing something to assist with the plan, leaving just 6 appointments required for the rest of the circuit to be resourced.

		1st Sunday	2nd Sunday	3rd Sunday	4th Sunday	5th Sunday
Hillside	10:00 am					Should there be a 5th Sunday we will do our best to fill all appointments with preachers, however some churches may need to accommodate an extra LA
Hillside	3:00 pm					
Chorley	10:30 am					
Spendmore Lane	10:30 am					
Eccleston	10:00 am					
Euxton	10:30 am					
Leyland	10:30 am					
Midge Hall	10:30 am					
Whittle Le Woods	10:00 am					
Buckshaw	2:30 pm					