**Mission Statement and Strategy 2023-2028**Mission Statement 2023  
“The calling of the Methodist Church is to respond to the good news of God’s love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission”  
In this , and in partnership with others wherever possible, Chelmsford Methodist Circuit will devote its prayers, resources, encouragement, and commitments on this priority:

Supporting God’s People, sharing God’s love

Our vision is for a Christ-centred Circuit of vibrant, growing churches supporting each other in expressing God’s love and sharing it with others.

As ways towards realising this priority, the circuit will give attention to the following:

* Underpinning everything we do with God-centred worship and prayer.
* Supporting community development and action for justice, especially among the most deprived and poor – in Britain and worldwide
* Developing confidence in evangelism and in the capacity to speak of God and faith in ways that make sense to all involved.
* Encouraging fresh ways of understanding church
* Nurturing an inclusive church which cares for all.

Worship  
The church exists to increase awareness of God’s presence and to celebrate God’s love.

We will:

* Offer to the communities around us safe places for worship and acceptance.
* Facilitate the worship of God in places other than our buildings (e.g. residential homes, new areas of housing).
* Help people grow a greater awareness of God’s awesome presence, and to experience his love, at all stages of life.
* Encourage and make available varied worship opportunities appropriate for people of all ages, during the week as well as on Sundays.
* Encourage and support the use of technology in our churches.

Learning  
Help people to grow and learn as Christians.

We will:

* Support churches and resource members in continuing to grow and delight in Christian discipleship.
* Support the training and development of our ordained and lay people including Local Preachers, Worship Leaders and others.
* Encourage each other at all stages of the faith journey.
* Inform and inspire people to be passionate about justice, peace and integrity of creation.

Caring & Service  
Be a good neighbour to people in need and challenge injustice

We will:

* Create safe communities characterised by hospitality, generosity, welcome, care, acceptance and respect.
* Provide prayerful, caring support for our Ministry and leadership.
* Inspire an outward looking focus to the life and service of the churches within the circuit.
* Use our influence to have an impact on issues of equality, diversity and inclusion both locally and more widely.
* Encourages everyone to regard being active in service as part of their Christian life; and  
  find ways to witness to our faith through fulfilling needs in our communities and to do what we can to support those in need in the wider world;
* Give generously, but with due thought and prayer, of time and money for God’s work in the church and in the world.
* Work for justice, peace and care for the environment in the local area, the nation and the wider world.

Evangelism  
The church exists to make more followers of Jesus Christ

We will:

* Guard against being apologetic for our faith.
* Provide more opportunities to explore the Bible and Christian faith, and the confidence to share it with others.
* Engage in mission activities both inside and outside our buildings and to those we meet outside the church in daily life.
* Use opportunities in community groups and at occasions such as baptisms, weddings, funerals and Christmas and Easter to share our faith.
* Work with other Christian churches to explore openings for evangelism in the community.
* Encourage people to be able to pray with and for those who are working for peace and hope.

**Circuit Mission Strategy 2023-2028**

**To fulfil these priorities, as a circuit we will:**

* Support each of the circuit churches in producing new versions of their mission statements and strategy that are Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Timetabled (SMART) by 31st August 2024.
* Encourage work that is ecumenical, people-centred, flexible and innovative.
* Concentrate on the development of new visions and ways of being church relevant for 21st Century, through continued analysis of the circuit’s resources of people, property, and finance, and use them in ways that will most effectively further the work of God and the circuit.

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| Year | Task | Responsibility | Projected Outcome | Completed |
| 2023 | Assess requirements for ministry from 2024 | CLT | Pastoral and financial stability | ✔ |
|  | Enter stationing | Stationing group | Confirmed staffing levels | ✔ |
| 2023/4 | Complete stationing and review of resources | CLT | Confirmed staffing levels |  |
| 2024  Lent | Launch Circuit mission statement and strategy | Prayer Group | 24-hour prayer event |  |
|  | Set up Circuit prayer group | CLT | Prayer support for ministry and mission |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| August 31st | Complete church mission statements including LEP relationships | CLT and Church Councils | Clearly defined vision & purpose |  |
|  | Establish 5-year plan for manse management | Manses sub-group | Well maintained manses within budget |  |
|  | Continue to look with enquiring eyes and prayerful hope at the circumstances of local churches, their opportunities and threats | Vision groups in Chelmsford City Centre and Maldon Sector, Halstead, LEPs | Ongoing conversation about the shape of circuit life, co-operation and fellowship |  |
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| Year | Task | Responsibility | Projected Outcome | Completed |
| 2024 | Inaugurate Circuit Eco-event | Circuit Eco-team | Annual event |  |
|  | Review LEP at St Augustine’s | Superintendent/Vicar(s) and ecumenical officers | Clear, documented partnership agreements |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 2024 | Review Circuit Mission Strategy | CLT, Vision groups & Circuit Meeting | Relevant Strategy |  |
|  | Review church mission statements | Church Councils | Relevant vision and purpose |  |
|  | Continue to look with enquiring eyes and prayerful hope at the circumstances of local churches, their opportunities and threats | Vision groups in Chelmsford City Centre and Maldon Sector Halstead, LEPs | Ongoing conversation about the shape of circuit life, co-operation and fellowship |  |
|  | Review ministry and mission of Halstead | CLT |  |  |
|  | Inaugurate annual circuit event | CLT subgroup | Worship/prayer away day |  |
|  | Initiate spread of Anna Chaplaincy | Anna chaplaincy group | Commission 4 new Anna Chaplains in circuit churches |  |
|  | Review and manage future use of Hall Street | Property management group | Community use/sale |  |
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| 2024 | Inaugurate Circuit Justice event (Equality, Diversity & Inclusion) | Circuit EDI Officer | Annual event |  |
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| Year | Task | Responsibility | Projected outcome | Completed |
| 2025 |  |  |  |  |
|  | Review Circuit Mission Strategy | CLT, Vision groups & Circuit Meeting | Relevant Strategy |  |
|  | Enter stationing | Circuit Invitation Committee |  |  |
|  | Continue to look with enquiring eyes and prayerful hope at the circumstances of local churches, their opportunities and threats | Vision groups in Chelmsford City Centre and Maldon Sector | Ongoing conversation about the shape of circuit life, co-operation and fellowship |  |
|  | Review LEP at Braintree | Superintendent/URC Minister & ecumenical officers | Clear, documented partnership agreements |  |
|  | Oversee pioneer project | Pioneer vision group | Detailed in funding document |  |
| 2026 | Complete stationing and review of resources | CLT | Confirmed staffing levels |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Continue to look with enquiring eyes and prayerful hope at the circumstances of local churches, their opportunities and threats | Vision groups in Chelmsford City Centre and Maldon Sector | Ongoing conversation about the shape of circuit life, co-operation and fellowship |  |
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|  | Review LEP Coggeshall | Superintendent/URC Minister & ecumenical officers | Clear, documented partnership agreements |  |
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| Year | Task | Responsibility | Projected outcome | Completed |
| 2027 | Consider pioneer work on Channels Estate | Pioneer vision group | Details in proposal document |  |
|  | Review LEP South Woodham Ferrers | Superintendent/URC Minister & ecumenical officers | Clear, documented partnership agreements |  |
| 2028 | Review Manses 5-year strategy | Manses sub-group | Well maintained manses within budget |  |
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