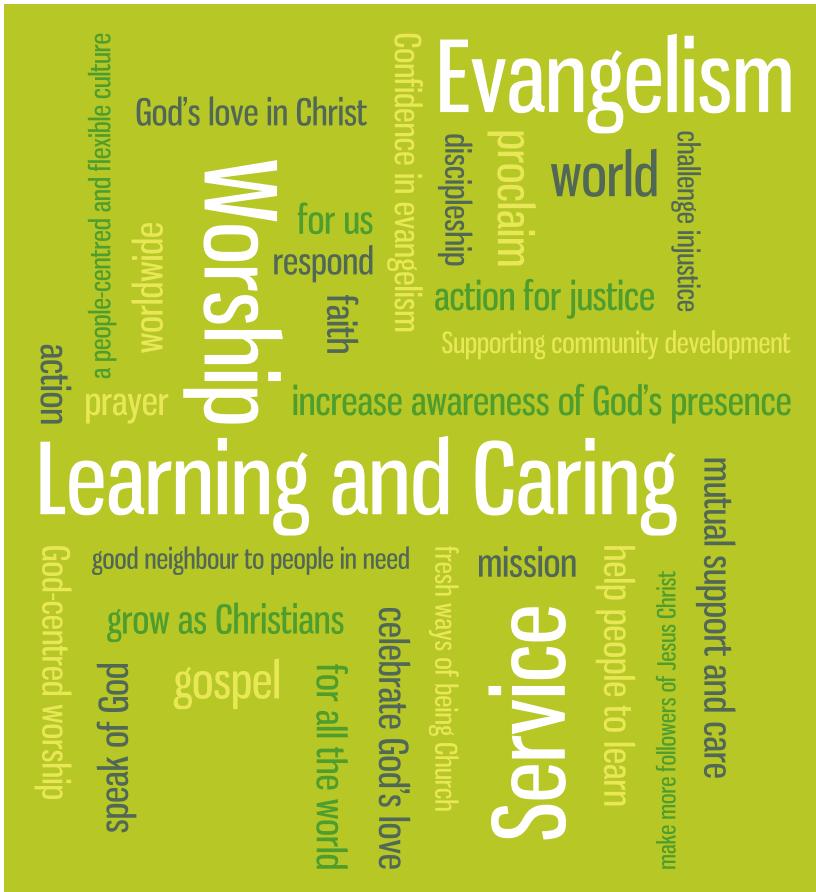


Our Calling

Priorities for the Methodist Church

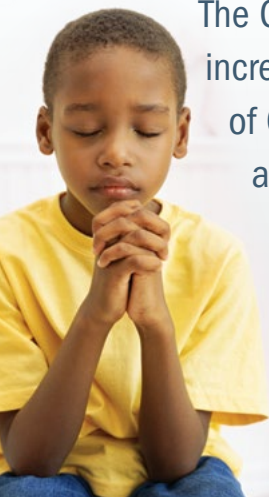


Our Calling

The calling of the Methodist Church is to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission.

Worship

The Church exists to increase awareness of God's presence and to celebrate God's love.



Learning and Caring

The Church exists to help people to learn and grow as Christians, through mutual support and care.



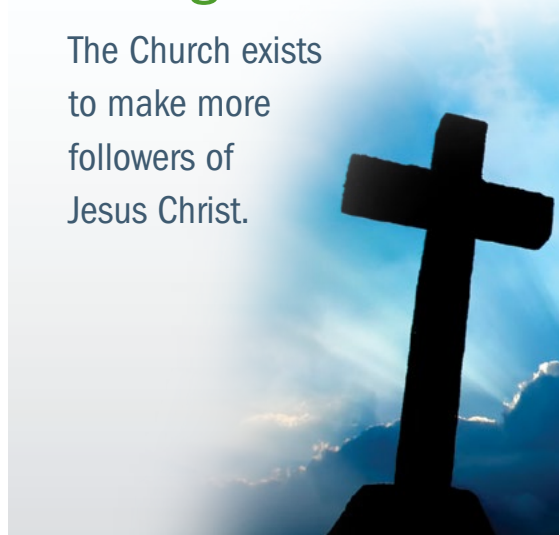
Service

The Church exists to be a good neighbour to people in need and to challenge injustice.



Evangelism

The Church exists to make more followers of Jesus Christ.



Priorities

for the Methodist Church

In partnership with others wherever possible, the Methodist Church will concentrate its prayers, resources, imagination and commitments on this priority:

- To proclaim and affirm its conviction of God's love in Christ, for us and for all the world; and renew confidence in God's presence and action in the world and in the Church.

As ways towards realising this priority, the Methodist Church will give particular 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 being Church
- Nurturing a culture in the Church which is people-centred and flexible

Dear Friends

As our Connexion continues to live out what it is to be a discipleship movement shaped for mission, we are drawn back time and again to the *Our Calling* and *Priorities* statements. Having worked with them for a number of years they remain central to our understanding of what the Methodist Church in Britain should and can do to be a significant and transforming presence in communities.

The original intention was for us to use these statements to help decide those things that we simply must not ignore. They also offer us the chance to refocus our resources and energies away from some activities which have served their time. Our need to continue to engage in such processes is as great today as it was when the Conference adopted these statements.

Throughout the Connexion we continue to reflect on our evangelism, our worship, our service, and our learning and caring. We must do this to determine if they are the most apt and appropriate for the changing world in which we live. Our priorities describe our Church speaking confidently and with conviction into a world where this is sorely needed.

Through prayer and dedication each church, circuit and district can continue to use these statements as tools to equip us in discerning God's will for the people called Methodists today.

Doug M Swanney
Connexional Secretary

Keeping in touch

If you want to stay in touch with what is happening across Methodism, there are several ways you can do this.

The Methodist Church website www.methodist.org.uk contains all you need, from daily prayer and Bible study to specific forms and policies.

You can sign up to receive any of our free newsletters at www.methodist.org.uk/news-and-events/sign-up-for-e-newsletters.

This includes:

- **E-news** – general news from across the Connexion and the wider Methodist family (E-news also comes ready to cut and paste into church or circuit newsletters)
- **The Buzz** – good news stories from local churches
- **Heritage News** – news about Methodist heritage across the Connexion

- **Methodist Publishing** – latest information about new resources plus special offers, extracts and more
- **The Well** – news for Methodist children and youth workers
- **The Week Ahead** – weekly news and information digest
- **World Church Bulletin** – news from Partner Churches, mission partners and more.

You can also follow us on Twitter: twitter.com/methodistmedia or on Facebook: www.facebook.com/methodistchurchinbritain.

And don't forget the wide range of printed resources available from Methodist Publishing www.methodistpublishing.org.uk or 0845 017 8820.

If you have a question you think the Connexional Team can answer, please call the Help Desk on 020 7486 5502 or email helpdesk@methodistchurch.org.uk.



The **Methodist** Church

Methodist Publishing, 25 Marylebone Road, London NW1 5JR

Tel: 020 7486 5502 Email: resources@methodistchurch.org.uk