

Circuit Development Plan- in detail

Background

In September 2024 the Circuit Meeting decided to set up a small working group to look at the original Circuit Development Plan (produced in April 2024) and try to knock it into shape so that it was a more user-friendly document. The group was to report its findings to the March 2025 Circuit Meeting. At the Autumn Church Councils in 2024 each church was offered the chance to send a representative to be part of the group. The eventual group was made up of Gordon Asamoah, Julian Bonnebaigt, John Hay, Nick Sissons and Jean Ware.

What the small working group has done

- i) We have met three times, starting with the original Circuit Development Plan and taking the key points within each of the four sections of 'Our Calling' (*Worship / Learning and Caring / Service / Evangelism*) and we have re-arranged them under 'Overall Target' headings (in red) and 'Goal' sub-headings. This 'Circuit Development Plan- in detail' document contains all this information.
- ii) We have tried using four headings (*Goal / When? / Who? / How?*) to help identify actions, timings and those who might take responsibility to help implement each 'Overall Target.' These suggestions are not the only way things could be done, of course, but we hope they might at least be helpful in encouraging people to think about the issues.
- iii) We have produced a one-page 'at a glance' sheet so people can get an easy overview of all the sections and targets.
- iv) We have produced a five year timetable document (with each year split into three periods of four months) and entered a few examples of how this timetable might be used to identify when certain targets should be met.
- v) We know this is only one way of tackling the task set before us. We are also aware there is too much material in this document and we do not want to overload or overwhelm anyone or any church. There is more work to be done in stripping away some of the details in order to make the overall task manageable, as well as in building up resilience within our congregations so that churches are not reliant on too few people.

What we would like each local church to do

This is a working document and we are inviting local churches to work on it. Between the March and June Circuit Meetings we are asking Church reps to the Circuit Meeting to get their folk to engage with it in whatever way works for them, using it to reflect on how it could help them shape their church life and mission going forward. Some members of the Circuit Stewards' Team or the Working Group can be made available if local churches would find this useful – please ask! We feel that, as part of this process, each local church should try to come up with some kind of local timetable showing their priorities for action in the years ahead. This would then help us put together a timetable at the Circuit level.

Some key questions for each church to ponder as part of this process

- which of the targets and goals are relevant to your local situation (they won't all be)?
- are there any obvious targets or goals that you feel are missing?
- are you able to identify what are some of the priorities for your church at this time? Are you able to place certain targets and goals mentioned in this document within a 5 year timetable to give some shape to your own plans?
- we felt that it might possibly be helpful to focus a particular year on one of the four sections (*Worship / Learning and Caring / Service / Evangelism*)? For example, a church might decide that in 2026-7 it's going to make Service its priority. Is that a useful approach or not?
- in our final meeting we felt it was a good idea to identify four key priorities for our Circuit. You will see these at the top of the next page. It seemed to us that these priorities were reflected in different ways under each of the four sections. Would your priorities be the same?

Gordon Asamoah, Julian Bonnebaigt, John Hay, Nick Sissons and Jean Ware February 2025

Circuit Priorities at this time:

- *To increase people's confidence in their faith and in their ability to put it into action*
- *To promote the identification of people's talents and offer appropriate training opportunities*
- *To explore better ways of including everyone in the life of the church*
- *To develop ways of connecting with non-church people and local communities*

1 Worship

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

The Circuit will aim to do this by:

a) Overall Target - involving more people in the worshipping life of all the circuit churches

i) Goal: To actively recruit future preachers, Worship leaders

When? Beginning 2025-6 and ongoing

Who? LPWL meeting

How? To organize an exploration day and to focus on LP Sunday as opportunity to offer a challenge.

ii) Goal: To develop more capacity for Local Arrangements to encourage greater involvement in worship

When? From September/November 2025 Plan onwards

Who? The Superintendent

How? Superintendent to plan one Local Arrangement in each church per quarter;

iii) Goal: To promote an informal culture of inclusive participation in worship by non-preachers

When? Beginning 2025-6 and ongoing

Who? LPWL in liaison with local Church Stewards

How? LPWL to encourage LPs to explore ways of invite others to be involved in their services

b) Overall Target - broadening and deepening the quality of worship in the circuit churches

i) Goal: To develop Wild Worship/ Forest Church within and beyond our circuit churches

When? From after Easter to October half term 2026

Who? The Anglesey Lay Worker and the Superintendent

How? John and Nick to convene a small group in the autumn of 2025 of those interested to coordinate a programme of walks and outside worship for the 2026 season on Sundays or weekdays

ii) Goal: To expand our involvement in ecumenical worship

When? Ongoing

Who? Local Church Stewards & CYTUN representatives

How? To focus on key seasons of the year, e.g. Christmas, Holy Week, Week of prayer for Christian Unity etc. as opportunities for churches to be involved with other Christians in worship.

iii) Goal: To support and export (as appropriate) Amlwch's exploration of different venues and styles of worship

When? Ongoing

Who? The Anglesey Lay Worker and Amlwch Leadership Team; other Church Stewards

How? At Amlwch to explore more worship opportunities at Hafan Cefni, to explore how the Clwb Y Gorlan model best fits into the overall life of the church, to look at possibilities of closer links with the Welsh congregation and greater bilingual worship with support from Welsh speaking Local Preachers.

Elsewhere in the Circuit to encourage church stewards to see how the Amlwch experiment might work in their own context.

iv) Goal: To develop dementia-friendly worship (and dementia-friendly churches)

When? 2026-7

Who? At St Paul's - the Anna Chaplain & Anna Friends in liaison with the LPWL meeting;

At Hafan Cefni - The Anglesey Lay Worker and Amlwch Leadership Team in liaison with the LPWL meeting

How? Through conversations with residents and staff of local dementia homes

v) Goal:- To support and promote Messy Church at St Paul's

When? Ongoing

Who? St Paul's Messy Church Team members, with consideration to be given to request support from ecumenical partners and children workers in our other Circuit churches.

How? Messy Church Team to regularly review materials and way of doing things and to consider ways of building on existing relationships with local families.

vi) Goal: To support the regular 'Songs of Praise' by zoom or live at Llanfairfechan and develop it elsewhere

When? Ongoing

Who? Capel Zinc congregation and the Superintendent

How? Through regular planning on Preaching Plan and creative use of the associated time

vii) Goal: To encourage and develop the prayer life across the Circuit.

When? Ongoing (but perhaps as a key focus one connexional year? E.g. 2025-6? 2026-7?)

Who? Circuit Stewards' Team

How? To follow the examples of prayers for Anna Chaplaincy, Jean O's Friday Facebook Prayers, John H's Weekly Circuit Prayers and the Circuit Prayers on Zoom and see how these might be built on and expanded to other areas of the Circuit.

c) Overall Target - maintaining and expanding our digital and non-digital worship capabilities

i) Goal: To continue our regular hybrid monthly services from St Paul's

When? Ongoing

Who? Julian and Heather Bonnebaigt

How? No new work required

ii) Goal: To continue and review our regular Zoom monthly services from St John's

When? Ongoing

Who? LPWL meeting with Mike Hall

How? To reflect on how this service can have a more creative impact

iii) Goal: To record some services and make them available more widely.

When? From September 2027

Who? Local Tech teams

How? To arrange the recording of the current hybrid and Zoom services and to put the link on the Circuit website for people to access. Additionally, to explore each week recording one of the preachers and this to be put on website via YouTube link.

iv) Goal: To enable people who are not online to access worship through the Circuit

When? Ongoing

Who? LPWL meeting

How? To ensure that each week there is either a telephone service or worship sheet available (from the LPs or an acceptable online resource eg Twelve Baskets) and circulated to those who need hard copies.

2 Learning and Caring

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

The Circuit will aim to do this by:

a) Overall Target - improving the provision of Bible education across the Circuit

i) Goal: *as above*

When? Ongoing (high priority)

Who? The Superintendent and LPWL meeting

How? By offering weekly Bible studies tailored for children and adults and by organising practical workshops on topics such as Christian living, financial stewardship, and career development.

b) Overall Target - supporting the provision of good Pastoral Care

ii) Goal: *as above*

When? Ongoing (high priority)

Who? The Superintendent, Supernumeraries (as appropriate), Pastoral Secretaries and Visitors

How? By encouraging regular home, hospital, and nursing home visitations in order to provide comfort and prayer for those who need them.

c) Overall Target - offering practical support within our Circuit and local church communities

iii) Goal: *as above*

When? Ongoing (high priority)

Who? Local Church Stewards

How? By implementing benevolence programmes to assist people within the churches and local community who are facing financial hardship. By supporting other community programmes that will benefit the most vulnerable; by supporting ventures like the ecumenical Renew Wellbeing Space at Holyhead; it may be possible to replicate similar spaces elsewhere in the Circuit

3 Service

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

The Circuit will aim to do this by:

a) Overall Target - engaging with the local community and developing shared areas of interest

i) Goal: To explore the concept of moments of encounter.

When? Ongoing (high priority)

Who? Local Church Leadership Teams

How? By working with existing activities which might lend themselves to developing closer links with the local church (e.g. Flexercise, Re-Engage Knit and Natter at Llanfairfechan), but also more generally by the development of a culture of openness amongst our churches to explore the opportunities which thinking outside the box may bring.

ii) Goal: To encourage people to share their stories of community engagement and action

When? Ongoing (medium-low priority)

Who? Local Church Stewards

How? By tying this in with Vocations Sunday and making it an annual point of focus; by making space in regular worship for testimony, like the Minute for Mission slots at St John's, to inform people about social action; by exploiting opportunities afforded by Circuit Prayer sheets and online prayers to promote this work.

iii) Goal: To ensure continued and creative use of buildings for the promotion of strong local communities

When? Ongoing (medium priority)

Who? Circuit Stewards' Team & both Circuit and local Property stewards

How? By offering, where possible, our premises for free or for reduced hire rates (e.g. for uniformed youth groups); by continuing to host the town food bank in Penmaenmawr and supporting such Food Banks in Bangor and Llanfairfechan; by exploring how the buildings might be creatively re-purposed where appropriate (e.g. in Amlwch), or be used to promote other Circuit initiatives such as NPNP to the Outdoor Community (in Llanfairfechan); by working in conjunction with local councils and other local groups to make best use of the church's material resources

b) Overall Target - working for social justice and protect the environment

i) Goal: To work for social justice

When? Ongoing (high priority)

Who? Local Church Councils and those involved in social justice and local charities

How? By implementing, as appropriate the insights of the Connexion's Justice-seeking Churches framework and through supporting charities such as All We Can, Christian Aid, Anglesey Good Turn scheme etc.; by supporting initiatives like Warm Spaces & Soup Lunches in Bangor & local Food Banks; by periodic fundraising and information sharing; by acting on guidance from 'Life on the Breadline' research e.g. giving support to help the disenfranchised obtain voter registration; by resuscitating projects like the CAP money courses; possibly by appointing a Social Justice / Hidden Hardship champion or team to develop the work and encourage local people to get involved

ii) Goal: To promote care for the environment

When? Ongoing (high priority)

Who? St John's Eco Church group and interested people in local churches along with ecumenical partners

How? By looking to improve our carbon footprint and aspiring eventually to be a net zero carbon emissions Circuit; by keeping this item on Council agendas and resource local churches to take action; by supporting the Synod's efforts in becoming an Eco District by becoming an Eco Circuit; by using A Rocha's material effectively

iii) Goal: To continue to develop work with those facing financial hardship

When? Ongoing (high priority)

Who? Local Church Councils and Church Stewards

How? To ensure each Council keeps an item on its Agenda about addressing local hardship and poverty and seeks small practical ways to make a difference. Each Circuit Meeting to hear reports on what the churches are doing in this respect

c) Overall Target - supporting the existing chaplaincy work offered within the Circuit

- i) Goal: To support and develop the work of the Anna Chaplaincy offering spiritual care to those in later life
When? Ongoing
Who? The Anna Chaplain and Anna Friends in liaison with Church Stewards at St Paul's and Capel Zinc; Anglesey Lay Worker in liaison with Church Stewards at Amlwch
How? By continuing to support our Anna Chaplaincy work in Penmaenmawr and Llanfairfechan, and through linking with other ecumenical Anna Chaplaincy initiatives; by making connections with similar work e.g. Hafan Cefni & Re-Engage at Capel Zinc b;y working with groups such as CAMEO at Bangor, Forum at Amlwch, Friday Fellowship at Holyhead and by exploiting opportunities afforded by Vocations Sundays, Circuit Prayer sheets and online prayers to promote their work.
- ii) Goal: To support and develop the work of the Agricultural Chaplain for North Wales
When? Ongoing
Who? Royce Warner and the Superintendent in liaison with the Circuit Stewards' Team
How? By seeking to better understand the work the Agricultural chaplain does and the needs of the people they serve by working with groups such as CAMEO at Bangor, Forum at Amlwch, Friday Fellowship at Holyhead and exploiting opportunities afforded by Vocations Sundays, Circuit Prayer sheets and online prayers to promote their work.
- iii) Goal: To support and develop the work of the Chaplain at RAF Valley
When? Ongoing
Who? The RAF Valley Chaplain & Anglesey Lay Worker in liaison with Holyhead and St Mihangel's churches
How? By seeking to better understand the work the Chaplain does and the needs of the people they serve by working with groups such as CAMEO at Bangor, Forum at Amlwch, Friday Fellowship at Holyhead and exploiting opportunities afforded by Vocations Sundays, Circuit Prayer sheets and online prayers to promote their work.
- iv) Goal: To support and develop the work of the University Chaplain and Chaplaincy Team
When? Ongoing
Who? The University Methodist Chaplain and St John's Leadership Team
How? By seeking to better understand the work the Chaplain does and the needs of the people they serve by working with other groups in Bangor involved in student ministry, by advertising the work through church groups and exploiting opportunities afforded by Vocations Sundays, Circuit Prayer sheets and online prayers to promote their work.

4 Evangelism

The Church exists to make more followers of Jesus Christ.

The Circuit will aim to do this by:

a) Overall Target - promoting our work with children, young people and their families

- i) Goal: To provide opportunities for children, young people and their families to hear and respond to the gospel message, primarily by building on the existing work at St John's and St Paul's
When? Ongoing (high priority)
Who? Sunday Club, Open the Book, Messy Church and Holiday Club teams
How? By offering a child-friendly worship environment in all churches and by resourcing Sunday school and

Messy Church activities where appropriate; by organizing high quality regular holiday club events to create continuity; by continuing our relationship with Scripture Union and supporting the Cytun-based Open the Book initiative (in Holyhead, Bangor and Penmaenmawr)

- ii) Goal: To build up our links with the other churches who have more active children and youth work;
When? Ongoing (high priority)
Who? Local Church Stewards, CYTUN reps & those engaged in Children and Young People's work
How? By sharing good practice and providing mutual support as appropriate (key to this is the recruitment of volunteer workers and continued training and sharing good practice); by providing models of ecumenical co-operation (eg Bangor Youth for Christ trustees; links to CiW in Penmaenmawr; Holyhead CYTUN Christian Aid school service); by offering financial support as appropriate to similar agencies (eg Gobaith Môn)

b) Overall Target - using buildings and outdoor spaces to promote the gospel message

- i) Goal: To develop the area known as Mason's Yard in Bangor to become an attractive space in which members of the public can spend time and events and activities can be organized to promote the gospel message;
When? The 150th anniversary year for St John's (2025) is focusing around making Mason's Yard a focal point for contact with the community; the space has already been used in this way and is being upgraded in 2025.
Who? There is a small steering group set up by St John's Church Council
How? (see above)

- ii) Goal: To continue to encourage St Paul's and Llanfairfechan to explore and make use of their garden spaces e.g. for the Halloween event in Penmaenmawr or as a community space

- When? Ongoing (medium priority)
Who? Local Church Councils &/or Church Stewards
How? By seeing if there are new creative ways of using these spaces as evangelistic resources (as they have been used before for Messy Church and Guiding activities); at Llanfairfechan by seeing if the garden can be used in a community way in line with village initiatives for opening up green spaces

- iii) Goal: To introduce new patterns of worship which may connect with non-church members of our communities who are seeking a spirituality they cannot find in regular church worship
When? 2025-6 connexional year
Who? Local Church Leadership Teams in liaison with the LPWL meeting
How? By forming as necessary Worship Consultation groups to build on the patterns of existing alternative worship (e.g. wild worship, café church, fearless worship and 'Scones of Praise' style groups) and seeing how this idea may be taken further, particularly looking at worship opportunities during the week.

c) Overall Target - moving beyond our buildings to share faith with groups outside the church

- i) Goal: To implement the NPNP project creating new communities amongst the Outdoor Community of Snowdonia (
When? Ongoing (high priority)
Who? Circuit NPNP team
How? By continuing to explore our options for Connexional and Synod funding; by looking at possibilities of linking with the Conwy & Prestatyn Circuit; the Synod have suggested (February 2025) we may need to employ a pioneer for a year to do more work on the ground in Snowdonia and focus the project more narrowly on a particular sector of the outdoor community.

ii) Goal: To further our co-operation with ecumenical partners to work with them on any evangelistic projects and events which arise

When? Ongoing (medium priority)

Who? Local Church Leadership Teams and CYTUN reps

How? By seeking more opportunities for witnessing in the public arena (e.g. Praise by the Pier in Bangor; Good Friday walks of witness; the Sea Festival in Holyhead etc.); by promoting training for those amongst the Circuit called to pioneer work in general