



Nidd Valley Circuit Mission Statement 2022

As The Nidd Valley Circuit celebrates its 10th anniversary, it seeks to build on the work undertaken by the 20+ Envisioning Group pre-Covid. At the same time, it recognises the changing landscapes in which we find ourselves as individuals and churches, locally, nationally and globally in a post-pandemic world.

Lack of presbyters across the Connexion and lack of volunteers since churches reopened mean that we are having to look closely at how to resource our churches and circuit. We have identified three priorities for our circuit - worship, mission and discipleship – have put together a “mission hub” which provides a visual display of the areas the circuit wishes to support and resource. Where there is coloured text below, it corresponds to the coloured sections of the mission hub.

The Nidd Valley Circuit seeks to develop its 14 flourishing missional communities by:

- Developing Circuit
 - Where a connexional identity is embraced and reimagined to support churches.
 - Where circuit governance is remodelled and stream-lined to support more efficient and effective ways of resourcing churches.
 - Where there is collaboration and cohesion of team ministry between ministers, lay employees, local pastors and circuit stewards, in order for people to use their gifts most appropriately.
 - Where we grow lay leaders through supporting individuals to discover their calling, offering training and releasing them to fulfil their calling.
- Developing Church
 - Where the unique identity and mission of each church is affirmed and celebrated.
 - Where quality, in-person worship is relevant to each congregation.
 - Where online worship is available alongside in-person worship and digital discipleship is developed.
 - Where children, young people and adults including those of the 3rd age can find a spiritual home where they are welcomed, nourished, challenged and supported.
 - Where churches are enabled to reimagine the embodiment of “Our Calling” in their local context.
 - Where local pastors work with ministers and churches to support appropriate patterns of pastoral care and grow missional opportunities.
- Developing focussed mission projects
 - Where churches are actively seeking to share the Gospel “outside the church walls.”

- Where we work in partnership with local community groups and charities to respond to the needs of the local community.
- Where the local church displays the love of God by engaging in acts of social justice.
- Where pioneering ministry to both the town centre and new housing developments are fully resourced.
- Where we support and resource ministry with children, young people and families.
- Where opportunities for engaging with those with mental health issues and dementia are explored.
- Developing as disciples
 - Where small house and study groups provide opportunities for learning, caring and supporting.
 - Where multigenerational “grace spaces” provide the opportunity for everyone to experience the presence of God.
 - Where pastoral care is intentionally offered to all.
 - Where individuals are encouraged to explore ‘whole-life discipleship’ (LICC) by engaging with scripture, tradition, reason and experience.
 - Where local pastors establish a Christian presence to inspire and challenge both those inside and outside the church.
 - Where individuals are engaged with initiatives to support evangelism and equipped to listen to others and share their own faith stories.



Nidd Valley Methodist Circuit Policy

a) Pastoral Presbyteral Oversight:

For the Connexional year 2022-2023, the circuit will reduce from 5 to 4 Presbyteral Ministers as one Presbyter's appointment has come to an end. The 4 Presbyters will take on Pastoral oversight of additional churches for this Connexional year with the Supernumeraries and a Candidate for Ministry taking on the pastoral care. Discussions are ongoing as to how pastoral charge can be sustained once this year of oversight comes to an end.

b) Diaconal Minister:

The Circuit is going into stationing in September 2022 for a Deacon who would join us from September 2023 for a 5 year period. The Deacon would have a circuit wide remit of building and developing new Christian communities where physical new communities and housing are being built all around the circuit. Leading up to September 2023 the circuit will be putting together teams of volunteers with a heart for mission from around the circuit to work together with the Deacon on developing community.

c) Town Centre Ministry:

The Circuit recognises that the work of the Wesley Centre, a Circuit resource, is an essential part of our mission in Harrogate. The role of Premises Manager continues to be funded by the Wesley Centre. A new position of Centre Manager / Administrator is being considered which will encompass growing the mission and vision of the Centre, alongside supporting its administration.

d) Circuit Children's & Families Work:

The work and involvement with children and young families continues to grow in a number of Churches in the Circuit and looks to increase within the next 5 years. The circuit recognises that the new housing developments and schools in and around Harrogate Borough will provide significant opportunities to engage with new families.

e) Youth Work:

The amount of Youth involvement over the last few years had declined dramatically with the cessation of 'youth clubs', for various reasons pre-Covid. Where youth work continued to take place (Starbeck, Woodlands, Gracious Street and Trinity) the Churches concerned had decided that this work would be carried out by voluntary lay people. As we consider local pastor work across the circuit, we need to review whether any input is needed into the work undertaken by volunteers.

f) Local Pastors:

Pre-Covid the circuit adopted a policy of a local pastor in every church by 2025. We currently have 1 paid, part-time (20 hours) local pastor working alongside the Superintendent Minister at

Trinity and Pannal. We are working on a job description and person specification for a local pastor to work at Gracious Street (20 hours). We will continue to review the need for local pastors in other churches, taking into account a mixed economy model which may mean that some are paid and others are voluntary depending upon the context.

g) Governance:

It has been acknowledged that the burden of governance sometimes takes our focus away from mission and discipleship in particular. The Mission and Vision subgroup are looking at how we can be more effective and efficient in our governance so that churches can focus on mission and discipleship. It has become more and more evident that the main burden of governance relates to the management of our buildings and we must consider carefully whether our buildings are enabling us to fulfil, or detract our attention from, our mission.

September 2022