

Important Statement to the Circuit

During the Circuit Leadership Team meeting held on 30th July we discussed the God for All initiative proposed by the Evangelism and Growth Team of the Methodist Church and adopted by Conference in July this year. This initiative will run for 5 years and provide support and materials to Churches and Circuits across the Connexion. The God for All initiative is funded and could provide grant opportunities for projects proposed by Circuits or Churches.

The CLT agreed unanimously to adopt the God for All initiative for the High Wycombe Circuit and will recommend this with enthusiasm to our Circuit Meeting on 17th September. This decision has been based on prayer, discernment, and efforts to learn what is happening across our Connexion and in other denominations. Ongoing prayer, discernment and learning will form the foundation on which to build the outcomes of this initiative. Indeed 2020/21 has been designated a Year of Prayer for God for All across the Methodist Church.

This initiative is designed to provide a mechanism to help Circuits and Churches to grow in both faith within the church setting but also encourages us to use our faith to grow our connections throughout our communities. We as a leadership team are enthused by the opportunity it gives all of us to grow as disciples and to develop as evangelists to share the Good News of Jesus Christ!

The CLT, in line with much of the Connexion and our ecumenical brothers and sisters, have recognised that our churches need to change and that this imperative has been reinforced and made more urgent by the experiences and the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic.

What does this decision mean for the Circuit?

The Circuit Leadership Team is committed to leading this initiative, putting in place support and projects at the Circuit level and making available funding in addition to encouraging Churches to put in place projects based on the God for All initiative both inside and outside their respective churches.

This work is beginning now - an initial plan will be presented to the Circuit in September. The High Wycombe Circuit is committed to use the next years to plan and deliver change based on God for All. Plans and progress will be regularly reviewed and can be amended based on feedback and the experience gained.

To help in delivering the God for All initiative and to ensure that we can utilise the ideas and energies of people across the Circuit we are asking members to pray and take a couple of weeks to discern if they could commit to joining a Working Group which has been set up to deliver this change. The CLT membership of this Working Group will consist of Nick Thompson, Graham Everitt and Duncan Booth with further input from other members of the CLT as time permits. Initially we will be asking members to commit 9 months effort of approximately 1 hour per week, examples of the work required includes; attend (online) meetings, review ideas, review reports, talk to your churches and encourage change based on God for All.

The intention of the High Wycombe Circuit is to use God for All as a framework around which to build on the work already initiated as part of Our Church's Future Story (re-imagining). We would ask that any future re-imagining work undertaken, is done with a view to seeing how this aligns with or can gain inspiration from the God for All initiative.

There will be more information provided in due course and we would ask you to pray for the Circuit and the Circuit Leadership Team and for the success of God for All in our Circuit, as God works through our Churches building on the gifts with which he is blessing us richly.

More information on the God for All initiative can be found in the following video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NYqwDgBXPS4>

The GfA – leaflet attached to this email will also provide a useful overview of the initiative.

Important - To indicate the intent the Circuit has in leading this initiative, we are asking the churches to bring forward any digital requirements they have in the form of costed, business plans before the end of August. These could be for broadband or audio-visual kit for churches or support for individual members. These business plans will be supported by the Circuit practically and financially.