

Dear Friends

31st January 2024

We would like to invite you all to join us for a Circuit Vision Day on Saturday 9th March at Trinity URC in the centre of Wycombe (London Road, HP11 1BJ – parking in Railway Place) from 12noon until 5pm. We are holding the event away from circuit premises to enable everyone to take part fully in what we hope will be an interactive day. While I know that many of you in the past have filled out mission plans, 20:20 vision plans, spent time ‘reimagining’ and been asked for ‘God for All’ plans, however every year we do need to keep looking at where we are and re-evaluating in a changing climate.

In the letter I sent in the last few weeks, I highlighted the changes that are happening both in the circuit and the wider church. This is a chance for us to come together and make changes that we all have a say in and share information together that both enables and encourages each other as we move forward.

The day, as many of you have coffee mornings, will start with registration and lunch from 12noon. From 1pm there will be presentations from the circuit team on staffing, finance and property, and a chance for people to ask questions which will be a feature throughout the afternoon. Following that I will ask that each church give a five minute presentation on this question – **“Choose one of the bible stories that best relates to your situation currently and why?”**

Each church will be asked to tell that story to everyone however they wish to within a five minute slot, be as creative as you like! Later on in the afternoon we will hear three speakers present on three possible roles for lay workers:

- children and families worker
- mission enabler
- pastoral assistant

You will then in groups look at the job descriptions and consider how they might work within your societies and how many hours you think you might like before coming back to the main setting. We will by the end of the session decide on the best way to advise the Circuit invitation committee to enable them to recruit lay staff for a September 2024 start which will offer support to the ministers and all the churches across the circuit moving forward.

So the purpose of the day is;

1. A chance to talk to each other, hear stories of mission and ministry from across the circuit and see where you can either help and support, or learn from each other
2. Decide on the staff of lay workers for September 2024
3. Gain the information needed to write a circuit mission plan, which will be reviewed every five years.

Please fill out the form below to record **Strengths, Challenges and Opportunities** which will help you think about the day and inform our thinking as a leadership team moving forward. All the information will be gathered into

a virtual booklet to be shared before the day to gain a circuit wide picture, we will also include in the booklet some contextual information for you regarding staffing and structures of the church to help and guide your decision making and focus your prayer.

We are holding the day at the end of the week – long circuit wide 24/7 prayer led by one of the new circuit leadership team, Suzanne Soper. Suzanne will contact you with some helpful information regarding ways that your church can engage in the prayer event leading up to the vision day, there will be some focus points to pray into such as the three suggested models of lay workers, what the covenant prayer is saying to you and your church and how God is speaking to you at this time.

Please bring as many people as possible to the event as possible and let Neil know numbers for catering when you submit your responses by the end of Friday 1st March 2024 – please let us know any dietary requirements and access needs of those attending from your Church.

Thank you in anticipation of your engagement with this exciting project.

Yours in Christ

Rev Kate Strange

Superintendent Minister High Wycombe Circuit

Strengths, Challenges and Opportunities Analysis

Name of Church:

Please return to Neil Manthorpe by Friday 1st March 2024

<p>Strengths –</p> <p>Questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. What are the top three strengths of your society?2. How have you defined your strengths?	
<p>Challenges –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. What are (up to) three challenges that prevent you being more missional as a church?2. List up to three things you need from the Circuit to enable you to overcome these challenges	
<p>Opportunities – <i>Time for some blue sky thinking.</i></p> <p>Questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. What are the top three activities you would like to start in your Church, but have not been able to do for whatever reason so far?2. What are the resources that would enable you to realise this vision?	

Church mission statement