



LSW CIRCUIT COVID-19 QUESTIONNAIRE FEEDBACK

- 165 responses – thank you!
- Pastoral contact has been highly valued
- Circuit resources helped us connect to God
- 42% of responses identified a closeness to God in the outdoors
- For some, to worship in one’s own time and space has been a gift
- Release from church duties has been like a sabbatical for some!
- Many people are open to exploring new ways of being church and the Methodist Way of Life



- We missed the fellowship of church family
- Not everyone felt connected by the Circuit resources – for some, this time has been especially difficult
- For some, worshipping at home had many distractions.
- For some, the closing of church buildings left them bereft



IDEAS TO ACHIEVE WITHIN 6 MONTHS

Feeling close to God outdoors – Prayer resources

- To produce Prayer resources for use outside to encourage us to feel close to God outdoors, including a Prayer Walk and a ‘Paying Attention to a Small Space’ invitation to draw close to God through creation.
- To produce similar Prayer resources for use inside for those unable to be outside at present.

Church after Lockdown – The Methodist Way of Life (MWoL)

- To introduce the MWoL as a tool for both personal discipleship and corporate discipleship – in small groups through to a whole church community as most appropriate. The MWoL will remind us of the core values at the heart of what it means to be a follower of Christ in the Methodist Church.

1-2 YEAR LONGER TERM AIMS & STRATEGIC THINKING

Church after Lockdown – What to do differently!

- The Methodist Way of Life (MWoL)** – To continue to develop the MWoL as a sustained and sustainable tool for discipleship, mission and ministry.
- Understanding Worship** – To use a variety of resources, including different worship formats, to help us reflect on and explore the purpose of gathered worship, including how we might better connect with society and local community.
- Encountering God** – To introduce intentional tools that encourage our witness and develop confidence to be disciple-making churches. This might include
 - developing skills in attentive listening, observation and being curious ‘beyond the Church’ as we seek to be ‘story keepers’ for those in and beyond Church, and ‘story tellers’ of the Good News of Jesus.
 - Building on our experiences (positive and negative) of finding God during lockdown and how these might enhance the experience of gathered worship, including for those on the fringes of our Church communities.
 - Continuing to underpin the whole church experience with a Kingdom ethos that makes Church a safe space to be real and our authentic selves – to doubt, to question, to fall and pick oneself up again, to rejoice in another’s achievements.
- Balancing Purpose and Practice** – to build on the time of ‘rest’ many experienced during lockdown so that we can create a better balance between managing the organisation called ‘Church’ and the mission of being the Church.