



Circuit News

Oldham, July 2021

New Circuit for Oldham

From 1 September 2021 the Oldham & Saddleworth and the Shaw & Royton Circuits of the Methodist Church will cease to exist. In their place will be the new Oldham Circuit.

The new Oldham Circuit will be made up of fourteen churches across Oldham Metropolitan Borough. The churches shall be served by three presbyters working full-time, supported by three Supernumerary Ministers and two pioneer missionaries.

We have been working over the past year to bring the new Circuit into being. It has taken much effort by many people to bring about. This is exciting news for the Methodist Church in the area and we look forward to further developing our relationships with one another.

The new Circuit will be inaugurated at a special service to take place at Trinity Church, Radcliffe Street, Royton, at 2.30pm on Sunday 5 September 2021.

New Leadership Team

The new Oldham Circuit will be served by five Circuit Stewards. The senior Circuit Steward shall be Janet Abbott who worships at Gravelhole Church in Royton. In addition to being senior steward, Janet shall have responsibility for the pastoral care of the staff team. Nigel Bacon joins the Circuit Leadership team as Steward responsible for the Circuit finance. Nigel worships at Trinity, Royton. Kathryn Heathcote, who worships at Uppermill, joins Janet is having responsibility for the pastoral care of the staff team. Glennis Kirkwood, from Hollins, shall be Circuit Steward with responsibility for Circuit Property. Graham Radcliffe, who worships at South Chadderton, will be responsible for leading thinking about the mission of the Circuit.

New Minister to Join the Team

We look forward to welcoming the Revd Suva Catford to work alongside the Revd Dr Adrian Burdon and the Revd Ken McNally in September. Suva is coming to the Oldham Circuit from Stockton-on-Tees in the north-east of England.

Suva, who is a very experienced minister, will be working particularly at Hollins, Zion, Hey with Zion School and in developing new mission



work in Oldham Town Centre.

Suva shall be welcomed at the Circuit Service, which is to take place at Trinity Methodist Church, Radcliffe Street, Royton, at 2.30pm on Sunday 5th September 2021.

Further Staff Appointments

The Oldham Circuit shall be seeking a fourth presbyter to join the team from 1 September 2022. That presbyter shall be invited to have responsibility for Fir Lane, Gravelhole and South Chadderton Methodist Churches.

New Circuit Structure

There will be many opportunities for members of the Circuit churches to get involved in the wider life and ministry of the Oldham Circuit.

The Circuit Meeting shall be at the heart of the governance of the work.

Membership of the Circuit Meeting shall be drawn from across the Circuit.

The work of the Circuit Meeting shall be supported by several other groups.

A Circuit Finance Forum will be the place for us to give time to considering all aspects of the financial structures of the Circuit. The membership shall be made up of the Treasurers of every local church alongside a new post of Circuit Finance Officer.

Rather than having a Circuit Treasurer, the Oldham Circuit shall be supported by a Finance Officer who will be an employee of Salt Cellar. Nigel Bacon, Circuit Steward (Finance) shall be the convenor of the Finance Forum and responsible for the governance processes relating to our finance.

Graham Radcliffe will convene a new Circuit Mission Forum. This will be an open membership – anyone who wishes to come along may do so. This shall be the place where we dream our dreams and explore the mission opportunities for the Circuit.

There shall be a Property Forum, convened by Glennis Kirkwood, and all local Property Teams and Property Stewards will be encouraged to attend. Again, this will be an open meeting for anyone with an interest in the work.

Joanna Ortiz, our Circuit Safeguarding Officer will convene the Safeguarding Forum and our new Local Preachers' Secretary, Norman Unsworth shall convene the Circuit Worship Leaders and Local Preachers' Meeting.

These forums/fora shall all feed into the Circuit Meeting as the place where the governance of the Circuit takes place. Do please get involved with these meetings, they are all open meetings.

Circuit Schedule of Meetings

Circuit Mission Forum
Monday 6 September 2021, 7.30pm
Meeting at South Chadderton

Circuit Finance Forum
Tuesday 7 September 2021 7.30pm
Meeting at Delph

Circuit Property Forum
Wednesday 8 September 2021, 7.30pm
Meeting at Hollins

Circuit Safeguarding Forum
Tuesday 14 September 2021, 7.30pm
Meeting at Gravelhole

Worship Leaders & Local Preachers
Wednesday 15 September 2021 7.30pm
Meeting at Trinity

Circuit Meeting
Tuesday 21 September 2021 7.30pm
Meeting at East Oldham

Please Pray

Loving and living God
yours is the world
in which we seek you,
yours is the church
in which we find fellowship
yours is the mission
in which we serve our neighbour.
We offer to you the new Oldham Circuit.
May we be your people in this place,
a people of blessing and praise,
a people of love and service,
a people amongst whom your grace is known.
We pray in and through the name
of our Saviour,
Jesus Christ

Get in Touch

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The **Methodist** Church in Oldham