

Dear applicant,

Thank you for downloading this applicant pack; we are delighted that you are interested in the Mission Officer: Rural Communities Lead role with the West Midlands Methodist District! Inside this pack you will find more information about the role and how to apply, as well as an introduction to the District.

We believe that the Methodist Church can make a distinctive contribution in helping rural churches be who God calls them be. The Mission Officer will work closely with those engaged in rural mission and ministry throughout the District to offer support and resources.

The postholder will lead on the development and implementation of the rural strand of the District's Strategy, working as part of the District's Mission Team to support churches and communities and advocate for rural issues in the District and to the wider Connexion. A full job description can be found on the following pages.

For an informal discussion about this role contact Lisa Murphy, District Secretary, by emailing [secretary@wmmethodists.org.uk](mailto:secretary@wmmethodists.org.uk). To apply, please complete the application form available at [www.wmmethodists.org.uk](http://www.wmmethodists.org.uk) and email it to [info@wmmethodists.org.uk](mailto:info@wmmethodists.org.uk) before the closing date.

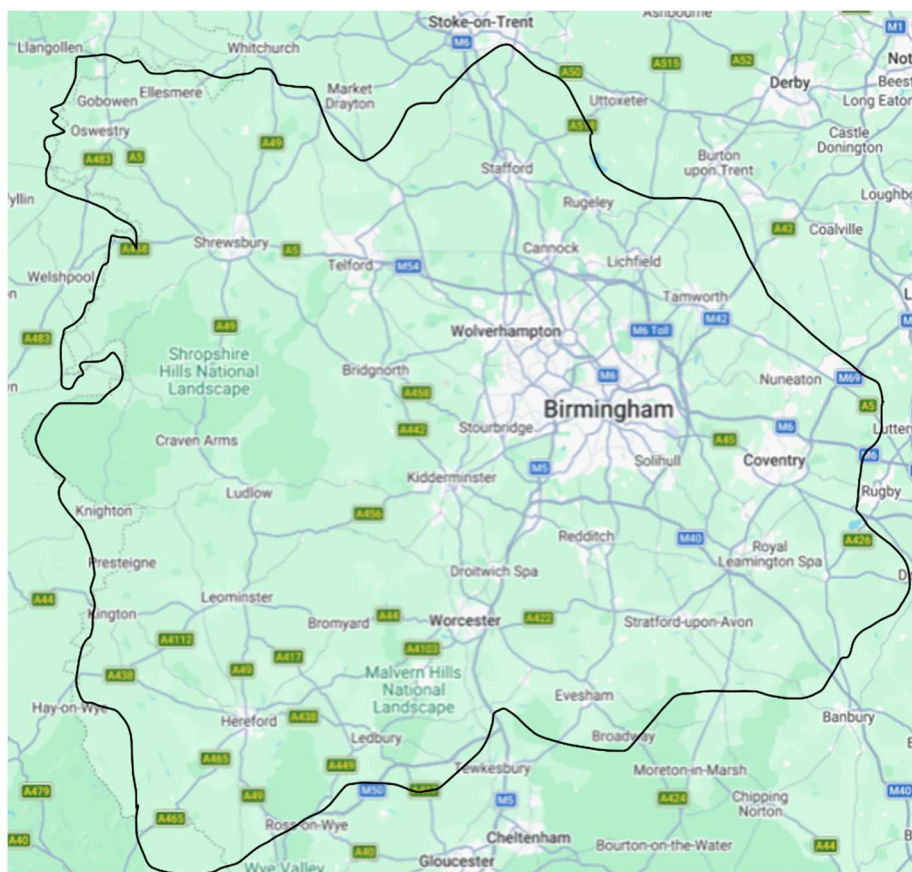
We look forward to receiving your application!

## About Us

The West Midlands Methodist District is formed of nearly 300 churches grouped in 20 circuits across Shropshire, Staffordshire, Sandwell and Dudley, Wolverhampton, Birmingham, Worcestershire, Warwickshire, and Herefordshire.

Churches and circuits in the District serve communities in rural, inner city, market town, suburb and city centre settings from the Welsh Marches to Tamworth and Stafford to Evesham, including the cathedral cities of Hereford, Worcester, Lichfield and Coventry, and the whole of the West Midlands conurbation.

Members in the District are diverse in ethnicity and languages, social and economic status, sexual orientation and gender identity, age and background, theological and political belief, and yet all are called to explore and live the way of Jesus together.



# Mission Officer: Rural Communities Lead

## Job Description

|                     |                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Reports To</b>   | District Secretary                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Location</b>     | Home based within the District, with regular travel around the District.                                                                                                              |
| <b>Remuneration</b> | Starting salary £37,000 per annum, or Stipend.                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Hours</b>        | 35 per week                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Contract</b>     | Permanent                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Benefits</b>     | 26 days annual leave plus bank holidays, training and development opportunities, flexible working.<br>The normal terms and conditions for a Methodist presbyter or deacon will apply. |

### Role Purpose and Objectives

We believe the Methodist Church can make a distinctive contribution in helping rural churches be who God calls them be. The Mission Officer will work closely with those engaged in rural mission and ministry throughout the District to offer support and resources.

The Mission Officer will lead on the development and implementation of the rural strand of the District's Strategy, working as part of the District's Mission Team to support churches and communities and advocate for rural issues in the District and to the wider Connexion.

### Duties and Responsibilities

To lead on the development and implementation of the rural strand of the District's strategy in conjunction with the District Chair, Circuit Superintendents and other Mission Team colleagues, including:

- Working alongside Mission Team colleagues and Superintendents to identify specific congregations and communities where new Christian communities could begin in rural settings. (New Places for New People)
- Building relationships with rural churches, offering support with mission planning and outreach to their local communities.
- Building relationships and developing networks with ecumenical and other partners engaged in supporting rural churches and communities.
- Representing the District on the Borderlands Rural Chaplaincy steering and management groups

- Line managing rural and agricultural chaplains and pioneers employed by the District where appropriate.
- Safely recruiting and overseeing the work of District volunteers engaged in rural mission and ministry.

To be a champion of rural churches and rural issues in the District, by:

- Ensuring a visible District presence at significant events and gatherings such as livestock markets and county shows throughout the agricultural year to build relationships with the farming community.
- Developing and resourcing chaplaincy in rural communities, developing a community of practice for chaplains in collaboration with the District's Supervision and Chaplaincy Officer..
- Creating and promoting resources for prayer and education.
- Collaborating with local ministers to contribute to worship services.
- Attending to rural issues nationally by keeping in touch with Connexional policy, publications and the work of the Arthur Rank Centre.
- Maintaining regular contact with the Connexional Rural Officer and attending the regular national Rural Officer/Chaplain Zoom meetings.

To contribute to the life of the District by:

- Reflecting theologically on the church's role in rural life, providing Christian insight and a prophetic voice on rural matters.
- Contributing to the development of relational and collaborative working practices across the District.
- Attending and reporting into District Representative Synods, District Forum, Committees and staff meetings.
- Being part of the team that plans and delivers Synod, District Forum, and other District events where appropriate, to promote rural matters.
- Planning and delivering training for ministers and key volunteers such as circuit stewards and lay workers so that they can support rural communities effectively.
- Provide appropriate and regular content to District and Circuit communications teams and ecumenical partners for newsletters and websites.

Other:

- To participate in line management, coaching and pastoral supervision.
- To undertake regular training and personal development including participating in connexional meetings and other CPD opportunities.
- To be a champion for EDI and Inclusion.
- To promote implementation of Safer Working Together and similar policies approved by the Conference throughout the District.

| Person Specification                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                           |                   |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Essential                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Desirable                                                                 | Assessment Method |
| Education and Training                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                           |                   |
| Ability to show a good level of experience and ability in theological thinking, which may be demonstrated through an academic qualification such as a theology degree/diploma or practical experience e.g. local preacher, chaplaincy. | Mental Health First Aider, accredited Local Lay Pastor or Local Preacher. | Q, A, I, W        |
| Proven Abilities, Knowledge and Skills                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                           |                   |
| Experience of working in or with rural communities.                                                                                                                                                                                    | Experience of providing chaplaincy or pastoral support.                   | A, I              |
| Experience of working and communicating with people from a range of backgrounds, with an ability to build a rapport with people quickly.                                                                                               | Experience of pioneering new Christian communities                        | A, I              |
| Able to demonstrate a deep understanding of the nature of rural contexts and the opportunities and challenges for mission and ministry in these spaces.                                                                                |                                                                           | A, I, P           |
| Excellent IT skills including experience of Office365 apps such as Teams and SharePoint.                                                                                                                                               |                                                                           | A, I              |
| Excellent organisational skills, with the ability to prioritise workload.                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                           | A, I              |
| Special Qualities or Aptitudes                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                           |                   |
| Ability to lead and collaborate effectively with key stakeholders, including district leadership, local congregations, and justice-seeking teams.                                                                                      |                                                                           | A, I, R           |
| Willingness to work as part of a team, and able to work flexibly with colleagues.                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                           | A, I, R           |
| Self-motivated and proactive.                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                           | A, I, R           |
| In agreement with, and willingness to advocate for the Methodist Church's commitment to being an inclusive, evangelistic, justice-seeking church                                                                                       |                                                                           | A, I, R           |

|                                                                                 |  |         |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|---------|
| Committed to on-going personal learning and development                         |  | A, I, Q |
| Willingness to work occasional irregular hours including evenings and weekends. |  | A, I    |
| Ability and willingness to travel across the District.                          |  | A, I    |

*Method of Assessment* A – Application Form, I – Interview, W – Written exercise, P – Presentation, G – Group exercise, Q – proof of qualification (certificates or transcripts), R - References

### Occupational Requirement

This post carries an occupational requirement to be a Christian (in accordance with the Equality Act 2010).

### Safeguarding and Safer Recruitment

The West Midlands Methodist District is committed to safeguarding and ensuring the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults, and expects all employees and volunteers to share this commitment.

The suitability of all prospective employees will be assessed during the recruitment process in line with this commitment. Any job offer will be subject to the completion of safer recruitment processes including review of references and a DBS check.

### How to Apply

Applications should be submitted electronically in Word format by email to [info@wmmethodists.org.uk](mailto:info@wmmethodists.org.uk) before the closing date and time. CVs will not be accepted.

Closing date for applications: Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2026

Interviews to be held: 27<sup>th</sup> October 2026, in Birmingham

Start date: as soon as possible