

**The Methodist Church in Stratton**  
(North Wilts Circuit)

**Mission Strategy**

**THE VISION:**

The Church's mission is summed up in the words of Jesus to his disciples:

'I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth.  
Go to the people of all nations and make them my disciples.  
Baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
and teach them to do everything I have told you.  
I will be with you always, even until the end of the world.' (Matthew 28:18-20)

**MISSION STATEMENT:**

The Methodist Conference of 1996 adopted the following Statement of Purpose for the Methodist Church:

*The calling of the Methodist Church is to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission.*

The 'Our Calling' process refined this as follows:

**WORSHIP:** The Church exists to increase awareness of God's presence and to celebrate God's love.

**LEARNING & CARING:** The Church exists to help people grow and learn as Christians, through mutual support and care.

**SERVICE:** The Church exists to be a good neighbour to people in need and to challenge injustice.

**EVANGELISM:** The Church exists to make more followers of Jesus Christ.

Discussions at our first General Church Meeting were summarised as follows:

**THE METHODIST CHURCH IN STRATTON:**

*Seeking a SHARED VISION  
through WORSHIP, WELCOME and WITNESS -  
going for G R O W T H*

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**WORSHIP :**

***Aims and objectives:***

Build upon existing development and growth in our shared life of worship, rejoicing in our variety, and continuing to draw upon both traditional and contemporary sources and resources, ensuring worship is accessible and relevant.

Maintain our pattern of all-age-worship and Christian education on Sunday mornings, and build up our Sunday evening worship.

Continue to encourage broad participation in the preparation and leadership of worship, recognising and developing gifts and skills.

Continue and develop occasional 'specials' to which individuals and groups can be invited.

Take opportunity to worship with others, building on existing ecumenical links.

***LEARNING & CARING:***

***Aims and objectives:***

Build upon and develop existing 'small groups' and activities which provide 'learning and caring': House Groups, Prayer Meeting, Music Night.  
Continue occasional social events to build relationships.  
Provide appropriate pastoral care, particularly for the housebound.  
Seek opportunities to learn from and offer support to the wider church.

***SERVICE:***

***Aims and objectives:***

Maintain and develop Tuesday Coffee Morning, building bridges between church and community.  
Maintain and encourage Shell and Rock Solid Groups for children and young people.  
Maintain and develop links with groups using our premises regularly.  
Continue to seek ways to support Fair Trade.  
Continue existing giving and support to those in need, and seek opportunities for giving and support in our locality.

***EVANGELISM:***

***Aims and objectives:***

Grow in the likeness of Christ, both separately and together, that Christ might shine from us.  
Recognize the opportunities for sharing our faith in our worship, our learning & caring and our service as outlined above, and grasp those opportunities.  
Continue to work at and grow in our welcome, in all areas of our church life.  
Encourage and equip each other to be 'the church - out there', in our daily life and work, and in our community.

This statement, together with a list of 'specific action points' to help us achieve our aims and objectives, was adopted by Church Council on 5.12.2001.