

York Synod May 2026

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Church at the
Margins
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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**

To be part of a church which
speaks of, listens for and lives out the
GOODNESS OF GOD so that **all** may
flourish, and **NEW PEOPLE** become
disciples of Jesus.

The church

A community the daily lives of whose members make it **easier** for others to believe in the **Goodness of God.** Called to Love and Praise

I believe I will see the **Goodness of God** in the land of the living. Psalm 27

We are ALL held in the Gaze of God





**How have you
recently experienced
the
Goodness of God?**



**What is the
Good News of Jesus Christ
for people
experiencing poverty?**

Church at the Margins

To nurture
new Christian
communities
amongst
economically
marginalised
people

Pioneering and Church Planting amongst people experiencing poverty

Why.....a biblical imperative?

The bible is complicated....

Stories of people being marginalised AND
Stories of liberation

Question

What biblical stories would you look to as a response to people experiencing poverty?

What does the Bible say.....

1. God is good news to people experiencing poverty.

Poverty contradicts the will of God

2. God is good news to the wealthy.

Liberating from the sin of oppression and failing to share with those in need.

#NoGoodNewsWithoutJustice:NoJusticeWithoutGoodNews

Multiple disconnections

One great reason why the rich in general have so little sympathy for the poor is because

they so seldom visit them.

Hence it is that one part of the world does not know what the other suffers.

Many of them do not know, because they do not care to know they keep out of the way of knowing it

and then plead their voluntary ignorance as an excuse for their hardness of heart.

John Wesley's sermon on visiting the sick





**Getting
stuck is easy!**

**Church at the
Margins
Theological
Foundations**

**God's preferential
option for the poor**

**The good news
of Jesus Christ**

**Evangelism and
Social Justice**

Interdependence

Inclusion

Evangelism and justice

Becoming an inclusive, justice-seeking, evangelistic community centred in the gospel of Christ

Evangelism

Some people see this as about using words, telling people about Jesus by sharing their testimony, preaching, teaching and sharing Scripture.

Love is at the intersection through:

- Nurturing and prioritising relationships
- Encouraging questions
- Creating shared and safe space
- Listening, talking and experiencing God together

Social justice

Some people see this as about loving actions and serving others through social action projects, justice initiatives, caring for creation and all God's gifts, challenging injustice through prophetic witness and campaigning.

**If we want things to be
different
we have to
do things differently**

**Church at
the Margins
Core Values**

Seek Justice

**Prioritise lived
experience**

Share Power

**Celebrate
inclusion
and
participation**

**Enable
leadership
communities**

**Church at
the Margins
Core
Practices**

**Communicate
vision**

Create connections

**Nurture
community**

**Share the
good news**

**Nurture
discipleship**

Build relationships

Listen and learn

Eat together

Share our Faith

Show the goodness of God

Ouch quotes.....

**God has a preferential option to the poor
.....the church has a preferential option to the
middle class.** *Professor Anthony Reddie*

So, you say you love the poor?

Tell me their names. *Gustavo Gutierrez*

**What is the
opposite of poverty?**

What is the opposite of poverty?

ENOUGH

to live

to contribute

to participate

Widening and Deepening UK Poverty

Joseph Rowntree Foundation 2026 Report

14.2 million people living in poverty including:

7.9 million working-age adults, **4.5 million** children, **1.9 million** pensioners

6.8 million people: **10%** of the UK live in deep poverty.

People of colour are **40%** more likely to be in poverty

60% of **working-age adults** in poverty live in a household where at least one person is in **WORK**

People experiencing poverty can feel.....



Web of Poverty



Question

1. Does the church care about people in poverty?
2. How: Share some examples.

1.

Community service

Responds to need

Resources are
external

e.g. Food bank



2.

**Community
development**

**Working with people
not for people.**

Resources are shared.

e.g. Credit Union,



3.

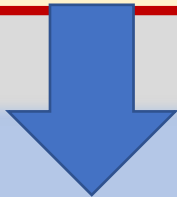
Community action

**Gathering to address
a common issue**

Equal partners

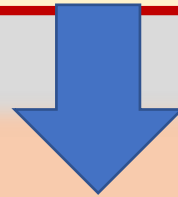
e.g. Campaigning

Begin by being with, listening and learning, forming friendships and community where people experience the Goodness of God.



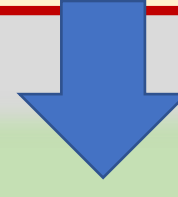
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Responding to need
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e.g. Food bank



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Community development
Working with people not for people
e.g. Credit Union,



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Community action
Gathering to address a common issue
e.g. Campaigning

Build relationships

Listen and learn

Eat together

Share our Faith

Show the goodness of God



**How could you
and your church
Connect and Speak of
God's Goodness
with people
experiencing poverty?**