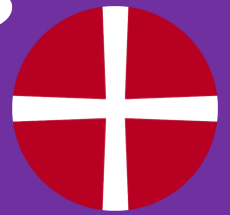


Southend & Leigh CIRCUIT NEWSLETTER



Autumn Edition 2026

Fourth Quarter

Contents

- Circuit Calendar
- Church Activities
- Circuit News
- Upcoming Events

Welcome to our Circuit

We are a group of 14 Methodist Church fellowships, including a Zimbabwean fellowship, and 2 Mission Centres, in the southeast corner of Essex. Our Circuit also incorporates 'Westerley', a Christian care home.

Our churches provide traditional services alongside an increasing number of contemporary and family-friendly expressions of worship.

We have a growing sense of service and mission to our communities, with a desire to love our Lord, and our neighbours.



FOLLOW / CONTACT US



[Southend and Leigh Circuit Facebook Page](#)

[Southend and Leigh Circuit Website](#)

[Southend and Leigh Circuit Instagram](#)



Introduction from our Local Lay Pastor

Hi, Mark Waghorn. I am the new Lay Pastor for Belfairs, Wesley and Highlands Methodist churches.

For the past 23 years I have been a minister in The Salvation Army leading churches in England, including 7 years in Shoburyness, Belfast and Dublin.

I am originally from Canvey Island and I'm looking forward to moving back to the area where I grew up. I am happily single and I have a pastors heart with a desire to show the love of Jesus through the way I live my life.

Outside of work, I love to travel and experience and learn from other cultures. Going on Mission trips to various countries has made me the person I am today and helped to appreciate the most important things in life.



Circuit Calendar 2026

September

Sat 5th September_Circuit Prayer Breakfast, Zoom (details available from Circuit Office)

Sun 6th Welcome Service for Mark Waghorn, 4pm at Belfairs Methodist Church

Weds 9th Circuit Meeting, 7:30pm at Highlands Methodist Church

Sat 12th Circuit Music evening with Our Atlantic Roots, 7:30pm Highlands Methodist Church

Weds 23rd Wholeness & Wellbeing Service, 7:45pm at Benfleet Methodist Church

October

Sat 3rd Circuit Prayer Breakfast, Zoom (details available from Circuit Office)

Saturday 10th Circuit Quiet Day

Weds 7th October- Worship Academy-Interview with Reverend David Chapman

November

Weds 4th - Worship Academy-Telling our own stories, Jane Fulford

Sat 7th- Prayer Breakfast, Zoom

Tues 17th- Local Preachers & Worship Leaders Meeting, 7:30pm Canvey Methodist Church

Thursday 19th Circuit Meeting- Trinity Methodist Church

December

Weds 2nd- Worship Academy- Using our own stories & testimonies in Worship, Colleen Weedon

Sat 5th- Prayer Breakfast, Zoom

Circuit Services

Lectio Divina on Whereby (details available from Circuit Office)

– Wednesdays 7.30pm-8.15pm with Rev Heather and Clive Johnson

All are welcome. Each session is standalone.



Churches Mid-Week Activities / Events

BELFAIRS METHODIST CHURCH

Boys Brigade - Mondays, Anchor 5:30pm, Junior 6:30pm, Company 7:30pm
Badminton - Tuesdays, 8pm
Parent & Toddlers - Wednesdays, 10am
Girls Brigade - Wednesdays, Explorers & Juniors 5:30pm, Seniors & Brigaders 7pm
Thirsty For? (Café Worship) - second Thursday of the month, 7pm
A.C.T.I.O.N. (Fellowship) - fourth Thursday of the month, 2pm



BENFLEET METHODIST CHURCH

Bible Study - Thursdays, 3.30pm
Wesley Art Group - Mondays, 7.30pm in Wesley Hall
Light Worship - third Tuesday of the month, 12pm followed by Light Lunch, soup, roll & cake, 12:30pm (£4.00)
Sunday Lunch - second Sunday of the month, 12.30pm (book in advance with John Stokes at johnstokes660@yahoo.com)
Coffee Mornings - Monday-Saturday, 10am to 12pm (with a Beading Craft session on Wednesdays)
Food Bank - daily from 10am until 12pm (except Thursdays and Sundays when closed)
Ladies' Thursday Club - first Thursday of the month, 7.45pm
Women's Fellowship - first and third Wednesdays of the month, 2.30pm
Wives' Club - Tuesdays, 1.45pm
Benfleet Hope Group - Mondays, 10am-2pm
Little Bunnies (Mother & Toddler group) - Mondays, 9.30am-11.30am
Fusion Children Groups - Fridays, ages 5-11 yrs 5.30pm-7pm & 11+ yrs 7pm-8.30pm



CANVEY ISLAND METHODIST CHURCH

Bible Study - Mondays, 3pm-4.30pm
Wives Club - Thursdays, 2pm
Coffee Morning - Wednesdays, 10.30am-12pm
Coffee Morning - Saturdays, 10.30am-12pm
Wednesday Fellowship - first two Wednesdays of the month, 2.30pm
Midweek Communion - third Wednesday of the month, 10am



CHALKWELL PARK METHODIST CHURCH

Ladies Monday Club - 2nd & 4th Mondays (except BH & August), 2-4pm
Caterpillars Baby & Toddler group - Wednesdays, sch. term only, 9.30am-11.30am
Coffee Morning - 1st Friday of the month, 10am-12noon
Crafty Friday (for adults) - 2nd & 4th Fridays, sch. term only, 10am-12pm



Churches Mid-Week Activities / Events

HIGHLANDS METHODIST CHURCH

Coffee Morning - Saturdays, 10.00am-12pm

Lunch Club - second Tuesday of the month, 12pm (registration essential)

Chatter (Fellowship Group) - Tuesdays, 10am-12pm

Hobbies - first and third Thursdays of the month, 10am-12pm

Prayers in Church - Tuesdays, 9.15am-9.45am

Toddlers - Mondays, 9.30am-11.30am (term time only)

Bible Study / House Group - 3rd Tuesday of the month, 1pm-2pm

Evening House Group - 2nd Monday of the month, 7.30pm in the Snug

Classic Film afternoon with ice-cream - First Friday of every month, 2-4pm



ROCHFORD METHODIST CHURCH

Prayer time on Zoom - Mondays, 7pm

Bible Studies on Zoom - Tuesdays, 7.30pm

Housegroup - usually third Wednesday of the month, 8pm

'Happy Cup' Breakfast Club for children under 5 and carers - Fridays (term-time), 9.30am



THORPE BAY METHODIST CHURCH

Mid-week Communion - third Wednesday of the month, 10am

The Tuesday Café - first & third Tuesday, 2-4pm

Coffee Morning - every Wednesday, 10am-12noon



BURRELL WELLBEING CENTRE – THUNDERSLEY

Coffee Morning - Wednesdays (term-time), 9am-11am

Chair Fit Session - Monday, 10-11am (cost is £2 includes refreshments)



UNITED METHODIST CHURCH (Great Wakering)

'Brew, Chew, Renew' (Bible Study with refreshments) - Fortnightly on Monday, 10.30am

Funtime Toddlers - Wednesdays & Thursdays, 9.00-11.30am (term-time)

Home Group - Tuesdays, 7.30pm (contact office@umcsouthend.org.uk)



Churches Mid-Week Activities / Events

THE FISHERMEN'S CHAPEL

Coffee Morning - Wednesdays, 10.30-12.30pm. In August we meet at the Bellairs Woodland Centre at the same times.

Gospel Choir Rehearsals (contact Rev Heather 07879 232231).

Gospel Service in August meets in Strand Wharf at 7.30pm. Please bring your own chair and drink. Cakes are provided!

Regular Music and Arts Events - please visit website: www.fishermenschapel.org.uk

On the 3rd Sunday of every month at 7.30pm, reflective Taizé service.



RAYLEIGH METHODIST CHURCH

Sunbeams Baby & Toddler Group - Mondays (term time), 1.15pm to 2.45pm (under 5 £2+50p parents/carers)

Townswomen Guild (Speaker, tea & cake) - Last Monday of the month, 10am to 12pm

Memory Worship (30mins service followed by Coffee & Craft) - First Tuesday of the month, 2pm

Free Drama Group Years 2 to 5 - Tuesdays (term time), 4pm to 5pm

Ladies Club (informal and fun All age tea, biscuit, speakers, outings, meals) - Wednesdays, 1.45pm to 3.15pm

Wesley Guild (Everyone welcome any age Women and Men varied program of Devotional, Christian Service, Cultural and Musical, Social events) - Thursdays, 2pm

Toys & Toast (Baby & Toddler) - Fridays (term time), 9.30am to 11am (£3 last 30 minutes is singing)

Trefoil Guild - Third Friday of the month (exc. Bank Hols), 1.30pm to 3.30pm (all 18+)

Coffee Morning - Third Sat of the month, 10am to 12pm

(each month in aid of community / church projects)

Messy Church - Last Sunday of the month except August and December, 4pm to 6pm



HOCKLEY & HAWKWELL METHODIST CHURCH

Sundays: Tea and Coffee from 10.30am followed by Morning Worship at 11.15am

Mondays: Brightstars Toddler Group, 9.00–11.30am

1st Hockley Rainbows, 4.15–5.30pm

Tuesdays: Messy Church (3rd Tuesday each Month), 4.00–5.30pm

Bible Studies on Zoom, 7.30pm

Wednesdays: Welcome Wednesday (Tea, Coffee & Cake), 10.00am-12noon

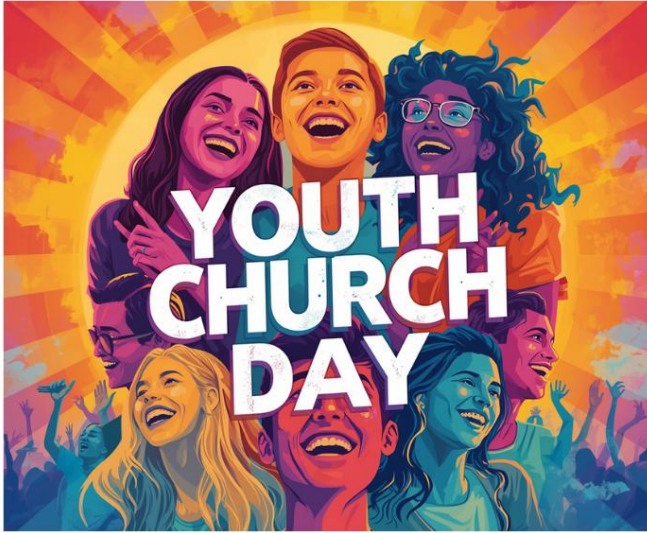
2nd Hockley Brownie Pack, 5.30-7.00 pm

Thursdays: 1st Hockley Beaver Colony, 5.15-6.15 pm

Thursday Social Club, 2.30pm

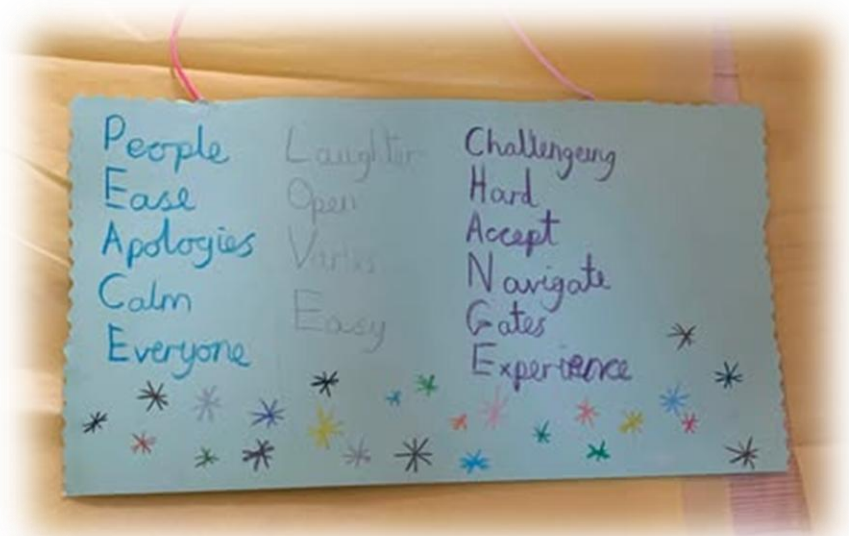


Circuit Youth Day



In July, young people from our Circuit gathered at Highlands Methodist Church to explore their faith through games, drama & art and crafts. The theme was Acts of Kindness & culminated in the young people leading a service that they had prepared.

Thank you to the team that supported the afternoon & to Highlands for their hospitality.



Canvey Eco Church

Canvey Methodist Church was excited to receive their Bronze Eco Church Award in 2025.

As part of this, the congregation set up an Eco Garden in the church grounds. The church set up three mini gardens, repurposing some old tyres that had been left behind when a preschool closed.

A year on, and with the addition of some new pots, the church continues to see the results and progress inspired by Eco Church.





A huge 'Thank You' to Alan and Anita Sambridge for hosting this and rearranging their garden for the day.



UMC ANNUAL FAMILY BARBECUE

On Sunday, September 6th we celebrated our UMC Anniversary with a wonderful service led by Bob Briant. This was followed by our annual Church Barbecue.



We all enjoyed sausages, chicken breasts, pasta, green salad, potatoes and rolls. (Gluten free available also).

ooo

A wonderful range of desserts (which some enjoyed visiting on more than two occasions) was followed by tea/coffee.

ooo

Due to the superb weather and relaxed atmosphere, no-one was really in a hurry to leave and the conversations continued

Thanks to all who supported

Worship
WORSHIP
ACADEMY
Academy

**SOUTHEND
AND
LEIGH
METHODIST
CIRCUIT**

INSIGHTS INTO FAITH

**FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH EXCEPT
AUGUST, SEPTEMBER & JANUARY
BENFLEET METHODIST CHURCH
SS7 5LH**

**7 PM FOOD & FELLOWSHIP
8 PM WORSHIP & LEARNING**

Personal Experiences & Faith

**7th October – Interview with
REVD DR DAVID CHAPMAN**

**4th November – Telling our own stories
JANE FULFORD**

**2nd December – Using our own stories & testimonies
in Worship
COLLEEN WEEDON**

3rd February – Young Peoples' stories & testimony

Scripture Biblical Stories

**3rd March – Using Old Testament stories in Worship
BOB & ANNE BRIANT**

**7th April – Using New Testament stories in Worship
PETER MOORHOUSE**

**5th May – Using Epistle journeys in Worship
ANNA WILLIAMS**

Reasoning

**2nd June – Book review, more insights into faith
HEATHER SIMMONS**

7th July – Food, Fellowship & Feedback

**Southend & Leigh Circuit invites you
to our**



Healing &
Wellbeing
Services
2026-2027

23rd September

Benfleet Methodist
Church

27th January

Zoom

28th April

Benfleet Methodist
Church

23rd June

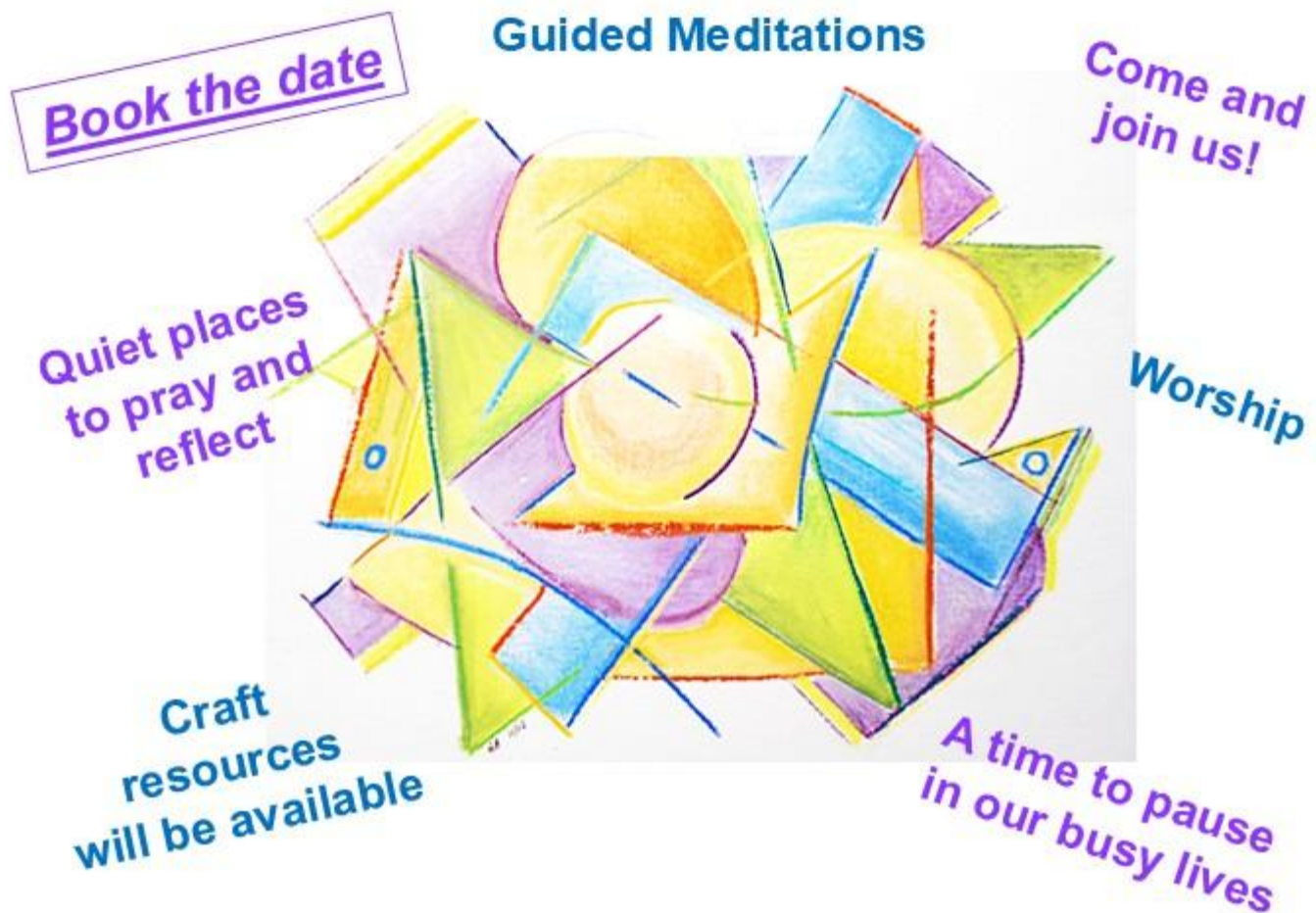
Benfleet Methodist
Church

All dates are on Wednesdays and services begin at 7:45pm

For more details contact southendandleighcircuit@gmail.com

Southend & Leigh Methodist Circuit
Quiet Day
Saturday 10th October 2026 10am - 2pm
Belfairs Methodist Church

Theme:
“Speak O Lord, as we come to you”



Please bring your own Packed Lunch.
(Tea/Coffee- available)
Feel free to bring along a notebook
or journal, pens and your Bible.

PRAISE AND PLAY

Playful worship for under 5s

First Friday of the month

09:15am-09:45am

Followed by refreshments in the cafe

no sessions in January

in May it's the second Friday of the month



At Wesley Methodist Church, Elm Road,
Leigh-on-Sea, SS9 1SJ

www.wesleymethodist.org.uk

2026

4 September
2 October
6 November
4 December

2027

None in January

2027

5 February
5 March
2 April
14 May
4 June
2 July
6 August

Wesley **Methodist** Church

FUSION Youth & Kids

2026/2027

Wesley
Methodist
Church,
Elm Road,
Leigh

Thursdays 6pm-7.30pm

10th September
8th October
12th November
10th December
14th January
11th February
11th March
No session in April
13th May
10th June
8th July

Contact: judy@wesleymethodist.org.uk
07504 492470



MEMORY WORSHIP

Worship for those with & without Dementia



2PM - 4PM
3RD MONDAY OF THE MONTH

MEMORY WORSHIP

3RD MONDAY OF THE MONTH
2PM - 4PM

Worship for those with and without dementia. Our 'dementia friend' team are on hand with tea, cake and fellowship.

21st September	15th March
19th October	19th April
16th November	17th May
21st December	21st June
18th January	19th July
15th February	16th August

ALTERNATIVE WORSHIP 2026-2027

MIDWEEK HOLY COMMUNION



2ND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH
9AM

WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH
ELM ROAD, LEIGH-ON-SEA
SS9 1SJ

MIDWEEK HOLY COMMUNION

2ND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH
9AM - 9.30AM

An informal midweek service of Holy Communion.

9th September	10th March
14th October	14th April
11th November	12th May
9th December	9th June
13th January	14th July
10th February	No service in August

www.wesleymethodist.org.uk

REFLECTIVE WORSHIP

WEDNESDAYS ONCE A QUARTER
6.30PM

WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH
ELM ROAD, LEIGH-ON-SEA
SS9 1SJ

REFLECTIVE WORSHIP

WEDNESDAYS - ONCE A QUARTER
6.30PM - 7.30PM

Reflective Worship focuses on quiet, more contemplative and meditative styles of worship, in an informal and relaxed setting.

28th October	7th April
17th February	2nd June

ALTERNATIVE WORSHIP 2026-2027



CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

EVERY 4TH SUNDAY
5.30PM
WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH
ELM ROAD, LEIGH-ON-SEA
SS9 1SJ

INSPIRE

4TH SUNDAY OF THE MONTH
5.30PM - 6.30PM

Inspire is a monthly service dedicated to contemporary worship; modern worship songs, prayer, activities and reflections.

27th September	No service in March
25th October	25th April
22nd November	23rd May
No service in December	27th June
24th January	25th July
28th February	No service in August

www.wesleymethodist.org.uk

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
HIGH STREET,
GREAT WAKERING



**COME AND
ENJOY.....**

Friday 2nd October
10.00am - 12.00pm

TEA/COFFEE
BRIC-A-BRAC
GREETING
CARDS
CAKES



ALL ARE WELCOME



Rayleigh
Methodist
Church



Upcoming Events

2026

JUL
26

The Music Man Project

As seen at the Royal Albert Hall and on TV, this brilliant group provides music education for people with learning disabilities. **3pm - 5pm**

AUG
11

Summer Fun Day

Games, competitions, bouncy castle and puppet shows! Free event, only pay for food bought. Drop in **1pm - 4pm**, no booking required.



AUG
29

Dog Show

Join us with your four-legged friend for a fun dog show on our field, with different classes to enter. More details to follow on our website + socials



SEP
26

Harvest Ceilidh

Join the fun with our ceilidh - sure to be a laugh and good fun for all. Buffet provided in the interval. **5pm - 7:30pm**

NOV
21

Winter Fayre

Come and enjoy entertainment, browse handmade crafts, visit Father Christmas and much more! **Drop in from 10am - 2pm.**



NOV
29

Big Sing Concert

Fun, festive singing brought to you with joy and enthusiasm by the amazing 'Big Sing' choir - as seen on BGT! **2:30pm - 4:30pm**

More Info + More Events! →

← Get tickets!

rayleighmethodistchurch.org.uk/events

Living Faith Talks at Benfleet Methodist Church presents:

The God Conundrum **a talk by David Harper**

SATURDAY 28TH NOVEMBER AT 3 PM

Benfleet Methodist Church
67 High Road, South Benfleet, SS7 5LH

Living Faith Talks is pleased to invite you to the second of our talks which is to be given by David Harper. David will be well known by many as the antiques expert with numerous BBC TV appearances on programmes including Bargain Hunt, Antiques Road Trip, For What it's Worth, Ready Steady Cook and Countryfile.



David has a fascinating story to Faith to tell, which starts with a miracle, and then leads him, as a 'skeptical agnostic', to research Christianity in detail. The result is David's conversion and a book entitled 'The God Conundrum'.

Please come and hear David's inspiring story and also invite any friends who may be interested. Seats are free, but we would request that you book in with us as there is limited seating available. To book please email your name (and anyone else coming with you) to:

livingfaithtalks@yahoo.com

Booking will open on 28th September. You will receive an email confirmation that you have made a successful booking after that date.

Any further queries please send to Stephen Decker at the above email address.

Benfleet Methodist Church

Christmas Fayre

Saturday 5th December

10a.m. – 1p.m.

Free Admission

Including

Toys

**Visit
Santa**

RAFFLE

Drinks and cakes

Secret Santa Bags

CHRISTMAS ITEMS

PERFECT PRESENTS

Yard Arm Folk Orchestra

Breakfast Rolls



The next edition of the Circuit Newsletter
will be published in January 2027.

Deadline for submissions is
Friday 8th January

