

## **Circle Prayers for the Diocese of Sheffield**

*Catherine Fish*

Churches and Church groups can use the original wording below or adapt it for their own contexts.

*Circle me Lord, Keep hope near, And evil afar.”*  
*Circle me Lord, Keep light near, And darkness afar.”*  
*Circle me Lord, Keep peace within, Keep fear out.”*  
*Circle me Lord, Keep hope within, Keep doubt without.*

### **1. Housing**

We pray for those in housing that is not fit for purpose, and for those who can no longer manage steep stairs.

We pray for policy makers and those in local government, and the issues of retrofitting, and building in green and brown-belt

For builders and developers, residents of Housing Associations, private tenants, all communities

*Circle them Lord, keep light near and darkness afar*  
*Circle them Lord Keep wisdom in and hunger for profit out.*  
*Circle them Lord, Keep peace within, Keep fear out.”*  
*Circle them Lord, Keep hope within, Keep doubt without.*

### **2. Transport**

Praying for public transport - for those campaigning for improvements in accessibility, frequency, reliability, affordability, and for planners

For staff driving and working on buses and trams, Connections that are made by users of all these.

For people who need to get to work places not served by public transport, and those practising car share initiatives.

*Circle them Lord, keep justice in, and injustice out*  
*Circle them Lord, keep wisdom in, and fear out*  
*Circle them Lord, Keep safety in, Keep danger out.”*  
*Circle them Lord, Keep hope within, Keep doubt without.*

### **3. Farmers, and food production**

We pray for those who farm the land and are involved in food production

When payments decrease, but profits of others spiral:

When arable land is flooded, or parched

When there is no harmony of seasons and product.

*Circle them Lord, Keep hope within and despair out*

*Circle them Lord, keep safety near, and danger afar*

*Circle consumers Lord, keep awareness and compassion near, and self interest afar*

*Circle us Lord, keep justice near, and greed afar.*

### **4. Water**

We thank you for the gift of life-giving water, rivers that flow through our city, and that with canals, are part of the industrial heritage,

Praying for regeneration and pollution reduction projects –

For those charged with making our waters safe and unpolluted

For those elsewhere, who do not have enough water

Those impacted by floods and tsunamis

*Circle them Lord, keep justice in and injustice out*

*Circle them Lord, keep hope within and despair out*

*Circle them Lord, keep protection near and danger afar*

*Circle us Lord, keep joy in your gifts in, and carelessness out*

### **5. Trees**

We remember that the web of life is dependent on trees, and we give thanks for trees

We pray for those sacrificing their lives to protect rainforests

*Circle them Lord, keep health within and damage afar*

*Circle them, Lord, Keep hope within and despair afar*

*Circle them Lord, keep life near and death afar*

*Circle them, Lord, keep courage in, keep danger out.*

*Circle us Lord, Keep hope near, And evil afar."*

*Circle us Lord, Keep light near, And darkness afar."*

*Circle us Lord, Keep peace within, Keep fear out."*

*Circle us Lord, Keep hope within, Keep doubt without.*