

# Good News

## Lancashire West Methodist Circuit

Prayers of the  
Day  
from  
[Methodist.org.uk](http://Methodist.org.uk)



I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."

Psalms 91.2

So much about this world is dark and worrisome. Please help us to remember all the promises You have kept in the past, so that we can continue to trust You with our now and our tomorrow.

Each day and each night, each shade and each light, we bend our knee in the eye of the Father who has created us, in the eye of the Son who has redeemed us, in the eye of the Spirit who has cleansed us; in love and affection, in wisdom and grace, in faith and in fear, for ever and ever. Amen.

Based on traditional Gaelic prayers to the Trinity

The next edition of Good News is due 13th June.

Can all contributions be sent to

Rev Stephen Foster

At the email address below

by

Monday 7th June

[stephenfoster533@btinternet.com](mailto:stephenfoster533@btinternet.com)

## Pentecost

Pentecost has always been celebrated in the Christian Church. Acts tells us that on the first day of Pentecost the Holy Spirit fell, quite dramatically, on the followers of Jesus who had gathered for worship. Between the final meetings with the risen Jesus and that day they had done what they were told to do and stayed in Jerusalem, waiting. It became obvious then what they had been waiting for – waiting for God to be among them and in them.

Jesus had been God among them and with them in his ministry. He showed the love of God in words and in deeds. He preached about God's love rather than God's wrath, he forgave wrongdoers. He promised hope to all who would listen. He showed what the full coming of the Kingdom of God would mean in

healing all sickness of those who trusted in him, sickness of body, mind or souls; he even raised the dead. But he increasingly opposed the evil of corrupt people and was killed.

Then Jesus rose from the dead. His disciples could not believe it. He was back, who could possibly oppose him now?

But to their perplexity he said he was not staying; he was going back to God.

But, cheer up, he said, rejoice, be happy, I will send you someone better.

Better? Yes better, because the Holy Spirit, filling those believers on the day of Pentecost could go with every one of them, in every and any direction, to the ends of the Earth



and proclaim the same love of God and forgiveness of wrongs, and bring healing and wholeness to people anywhere and everywhere.

God in Jesus, proclaiming the truth and changing the world as one man in one place, had given way to the same God in countless men and women (yes, women – don't gloss over that bit) proclaiming the same message and changing the world – turning it upside down as the disciples were actually accused of doing. That's well worth celebrating.

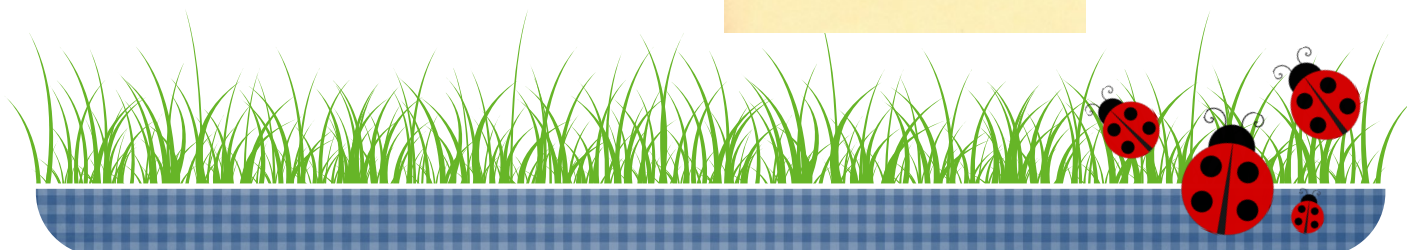
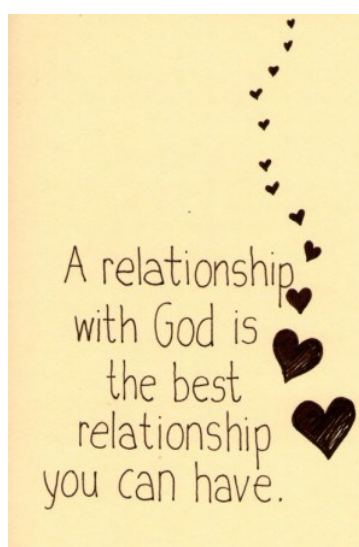
Certainly there is a difference between the ministry of Jesus and the ministry of Christians. Jesus ministry was about the 'now' of the Kingdom of God and about the 'not yet' as well. The 'now' is 'now' for all time – the proclamation of God's love and God's more than willing acceptance of all who will come to be forgiven and made new; and that's certainly worth celebrating day in and day out.

But the ministry of Jesus was also about the 'not yet' when all ills will be put right, all diseases healed, all the dead raised, all things put right. But we are not there yet. There are glimpses in miraculous healings and help but the fullness is yet to come. Though to be fair

that same Spirit, showing us that the world is not run by demons but by the laws of God, working through men of science, has brought us great relief from illness and short lives. Even now we are horribly beset by a pandemic but the weapons to fight it in vaccinations and testing kits are given us, for which we thank God.

And happily the world is a much better place than it was in Jesus day. This comes from God's increasing presence in the lives of women and men in the Holy Spirit. This Holy Spirit is living in everyone who sincerely gives their lives to God: calling us to work and strive, each of us in possibly very different ways, to do the work of God, here and now. Let us praise God for God's great gifts in Jesus and in the Holy Spirit and listen and obey as we are called and equipped to make the world a still better place. And let us wait patiently and joyfully for the fullness of the Kingdom – it will come.

Geoff. Farthing



## Love Beyond Our Shores—All Welcome

West Lancashire Circuit is hoping to forge a partnership with Methodists in Sri Lanka.

At a recent meeting of the new circuit mission initiative of Love Beyond Our Shores it was agreed that Anne Baldwin, of Emmanuel Church, who has been a mission worker in Sri Lanka, would look into the possibilities with the contacts she made out there.

Anne reported to the circuit leadership meeting last week that with four church schools in West Lancashire it would be good to build relationships with education in the former colony known as Ceylon.

At the meeting of the new missions group members were told that Jenny Ashcroft, of Trinity church, Skelmersdale, was gathering information on supporting a charity in Malawi that helps girls in their secondary education in the East African nation.

So far, Love Beyond Our Shores has had just two meetings, but Dilys Lightfoot, of Croston, said: "The interest and enthusiasm shown by representatives of our churches has been very encouraging for this circuit initiative."

At the inaugural meeting of LBOS, George Lloyd, of Croston, agreed to draw up a list of questions for a mission audit of all churches in the circuit. Dilys said: "There was a wonderful response from the churches and George has drawn together all the responses in a report."

All the meetings have been held on line using Zoom and the next one is on **Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30pm**. If you would like to join this meeting and receive the reports contact Derek Ashcroft: [derekashcroft@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:derekashcroft@tiscali.co.uk).

"We very much want everyone's ideas and support for whatever direction we travel in," said Dilys. "We are hoping that this initiative will encompass staff and children within our Methodist and Anglican/Methodist schools in our circuit. We are hoping that together we can grow in love, understanding and partnership."



 **The Methodist Church**  
North West & Mann

### Thinking about becoming a Circuit Steward?

- What does being a Circuit Steward entail?
- Do I have the skills and gifts to be a Circuit Steward?
- Is God asking me to take a role in the leadership of my Circuit?

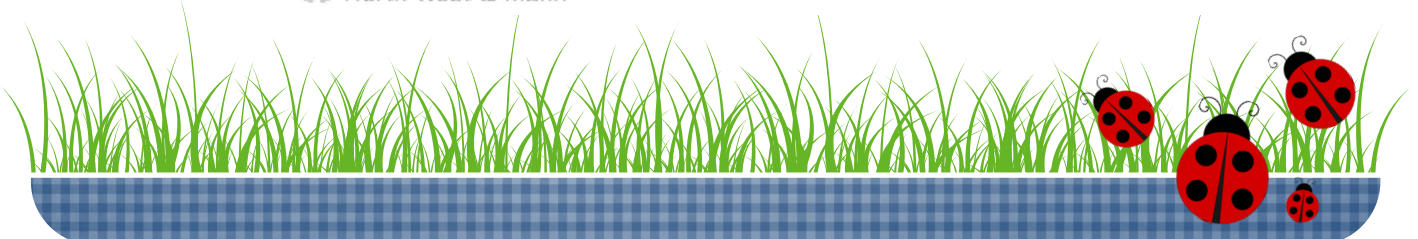
An opportunity to explore the role of the Circuit Steward and ask questions.

**Monday 19th July 7.30pm until 9pm**  
**On Zoom**

Facilitated by Brec Seaton (Learning Network) and experienced Circuit Stewards from the Kendal Circuit

Email Rob Glassonbury to book your place  
[nwmannnetwork@gmail.com](mailto:nwmannnetwork@gmail.com)

For more information contact Brec Seaton  
[seatonb@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:seatonb@methodistchurch.org.uk)





## Good and Sad News!

Jean and Graham Boulton have left Croston and moved closer to their son, Steven and family in Clayton le Woods. They have lived in Croston and worshipped at Croston Methodist Church for 57 years previously living in Ormskirk and worshipping at Emmanuel.

They have dedicated so much of their lives to the service and life of the chapel having probably held every post on the church council x number of times!

Before and at the turn of this century they were Property Steward and Property Secretary guiding us all and the construction firm in the building of our extension ! Jean in particular was certainly the project manager and nothing went past her ....thankfully keeping all on their toes and eyes in the job .

I well remember Jean stopping her car and jumping out to open her car boot to get my opinion on the carpet and curtain samples for the chapel floor and extension windows. She tried to consult everyone as the refurbishment of chapel and extension moved at pace and decisions had to be made. She was indeed the overseer of the project management.

We know that you will join with us at Croston Methodist chapel in wishing them both health and happiness and many, many thanks as they start a new adventure living nearer to Steven and family. For those who are in contact with them on the telephone their number remains the same.

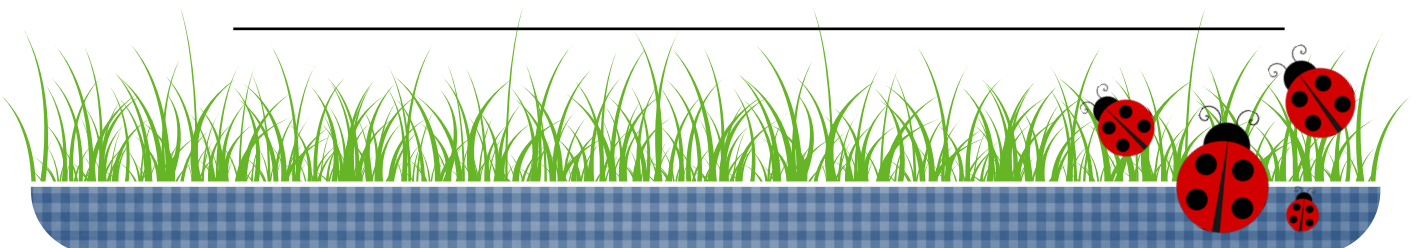
Dilys Lightfoot



Jean & Graham with Jean's Mother, Mrs Alice Burrows who also worshipped at Chapel



In 2012, outside the chapel spurring on the Olympic torch through Croston





## Golden Wedding—A Celebration

Tommy and I celebrated our Golden Wedding Anniversary on 17th April, when the weather was a lovely, fine and sunny day. Even though there were restrictions, we still managed to celebrate. Some of our friends and family called during the week and others called on the day, at intervals, when we could sit in the garden. Our children and grandchildren were able to come and share some food with us which was an absolute treat. We received lovely gifts and so many cards from all our family and friends, for which we say a big thank you. Even though we couldn't share it with everyone together we had an absolutely perfect day.

We have been very blessed to be able to have so many happy years together and we thank God for our 2 wonderful children, Catherine. and Michael., their partners Jonny and Karen and our 4 lovely grandsons, Tom, Matt, Marley, and Phoenix.

We were both brought up in the Methodist Church, Tommy at Holmes and me at Tarleton and we give thanks for our shared strong faith, sense of humour and love of music.

When Stephen asked me to write something about our celebration during the Covid Pandemic, my first thoughts were Oh no, panic, it's not my forte to put pen to paper!

During this last 12 months there have been so much sadness and worry, both in this country and throughout the world, but also more caring and love than we could have imagined. We can be sure though, that through it all, God's has cared for us all and his love has shown through and will always continue to do so, no matter what is going on around us.

"Tis Jesus the first and the last,

Whose Spirit shall guide us safe home;

We'll praise Him for all that is past,

And trust Him for all that's to come."

Marion Ascroft—Holmes



### Lancashire West Methodist Circuit

#### Children & Youth—

Messy Praise (nursery/primary age)—Every fortnight, on a Sunday morning at 10.00am, we meet for 15 minutes of singing, dancing & story. Dates tbc.—for details contact [rev.sue@guenault.co.uk](mailto:rev.sue@guenault.co.uk)

Messy Church (nursery/primary age)—Once a month, Saturday afternoons at 4.30pm. **Next One is 22nd May**

Messy Youth (for youngsters at High School) Every fortnight, on a Sunday evening 6.00pm via zoom. **9th May and 23rd May**

If you would be interested in taking part, please contact

Cheryl O'Connor

[family.schools@lancashirewest.org.uk](mailto:family.schools@lancashirewest.org.uk)

## What If Heaven Went For Voice-Mail

Most of us have now learned to live with "voice mail" as a necessary part of our daily lives. But have you ever wondered what it would be like if God decided to install voice mail?

Imagine praying and hearing the following:

Thank you for calling Heaven.

Please select one of the following options:

Press 1 for Requests.

Press 2 for Thanksgiving.

Press 3 for Complaints.

I am sorry; all of our angels and saints are busy helping other sinners right now. However, your prayer is important to us, and we will answer it in the order it was received. Please stay on the line.

If you would like to speak to:

God, press 1.

Jesus, press 2

Holy Spirit, press 3.

If you would like to hear King David sing a Psalm while

you are holding, press 4.

To find a loved one that has been assigned to Heaven, press 5, then enter his or her National Insurance number, followed by the "pound" sign. (If you receive a negative response, please hang up and try area code 666.)

For reservations at Heaven, please enter J-O-H-N, followed by the numbers 3-1-6.

For answers to nagging questions about dinosaurs, the age of the earth, life on other planets and where Noah's Ark is, please wait until you arrive.

Our computers show that you have already prayed once today. Please hang up and try again tomorrow.

This office is now closed for the weekend to observe a religious Holiday. Please pray again on Monday after 9.30am

If you are calling after hours and need emergency assistance, please contact your Local Minister, Pastor or Rabbi.

Source unknown. (with thanks to Jenny Ashcroft)



### Lancashire West Methodist Circuit

Messy Vintage session for the Over-60s (though we are joined by some in the 40-60 age group too!) are held fortnightly on either a Monday afternoon at 2pm or a Tuesday evening at 7.30pm over Zoom for now. Before the session you will receive the resources needed to participate in the creative activity.

Up coming dates

Session 6 = 10th/11th May

Session 7 = 24th/25th May

Session 8 = 7th/8th June

Session 9 = 21st/22nd June

If you would be interested in taking part, please contact

Cheryl O'Connor

family.schools@lancashirewest.org.uk



## CHURCH SERVICES

\* Please note, plan is provisional and subject to change

**Burscough Methodist**—Note: new time of 10.30am

email: bmc.stewards.2021@gmail.com

or telephone Debbie: 01704 892452

**Mawdesley Methodist**—email keithallen73@btinternet.com

**Trinity, Skelmersdale**—email derekashcroft@tiscali.co.uk

or phone Derek on 01695 726494

**Upholland Methodist** email linda.w@talktalk.net

or phone Linda on 01695 622414 & 07956816837

**Trinity Methodist Croston**—Note: new time of 9.45am

Bookings for test and trace via George Lloyd on 01772 600705

**Emmanuel Methodist URC**—Bookings for test and trace via Anne

Baldwin on 07512 286144

*The circuit ministry team will continue to deliver weekly on-line worship services. See <https://emmanuelormskirk.org.uk/worship/>*

*Or <https://crostonmethodist.org.uk/worship/>*

Revd Stephen Foster

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stephenfoster533@btinternet.com

Revd Michael Tindsley

01704 620053

michael.tindsley@methodist.org.uk

Revd Sue Guénault

Phone 07468 518260

rev.sue@guenault.co.uk

Jayne Chard

Lancashire West Methodist Circuit  
Office

01257 404742

office@lancashirewest.org.uk

*	May 9th	May 16th	May 23rd	May 30th
Burscough 10.30am	Rev Geoff Farthing S	Rev Michael Tindsley	Jonathan Richardson	o/a
Mawdesley 10.30am	Rev Stephen Foster S	Merle Farthing	o/a	Rev Stephen Foster
Trinity 11.00am	Jonathan Richardson	Rev Stephen Foster S	Jenny Ashcroft	Merle Farthing
Up Holland 11.00am	Rev Michael Tindsley S	o/a	Geoff Farthing	Rev Michael Tindsley
Croston 9.45am	Rev Sue Guénault S	o/a	Rev Sue Guénault FS	Rev Sue Guénault
Holmeswood 10.30am	—————	—————	Rev Michael Tindsley S	o/a
Emmanuel 7.30pm	Services of Holy Communion, music, prayer and reflection led by Rev Sue Guénault. Thursday May 13th (Ascension Day) and Thursday May 27th			
ON— LINE WORSHIP	Burscough Methodist Junior Church	Rev Michael Tindsley	Rev Sue Guénault	Rev Michael Tindsley

Key S = Sacrament/Holy Communion FS =Family Service o/a =Own Arrangement