

Good News

Lancashire West Methodist Circuit

Prayer of the Day from

Methodist.org.uk

Life-giving God, in whose presence there is an abundance of hope and a plenitude of grace, grant that we may build communities of hospitality where bread is shared, forgiveness offered and justice proclaimed. And so, as our life together is shaped by your love, give us the grace to welcome all our companions to the feast of your kingdom, that there may be joy everlasting in heaven. Amen.

Julian Pursehouse, East Anglia District Chair



Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love.

Ephesians 4:2.

LORD, help us to be like You and radiate Your love to a hurting, dying world.

Happy New Year!

I have some very good news to share with you.

At the start of 2022; our application for a Probationer Presbyter to join the Circuit Team in September has been successful.

I'm pleased to be able to announce that Alexandra [Alex] Laing will be joining us later in the Summer.

Alex lives in Culcheth [Warrington] and is currently training at Queens in Birmingham, she will be coming to live in Skelmersdale prior to starting working with us. I'm sure that Alex will introduce herself properly in a future issue of Good News.

At the start of another it is also a good time to remind ourselves of the guidelines for life provided by the Methodist Church prior to Lockdown

– “A Methodist Way of Life” –

Wishing God's Blessing on you all in the year ahead

Michael

A Methodist Way of Life

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.

As far as we are able, with God's help:

Worship

- We will pray daily.
- We will worship with others regularly.
- We will look and listen for God in Scripture, and the world.

Learning and Caring

- We will care for ourselves and those around us.
- We will learn more about our faith.
- We will practise hospitality and generosity.

Service

- We will help people in our communities and beyond.
- We will care for creation and all God's gifts.
- We will challenge injustice.

Evangelism

- We will speak of the love of God.
- We will live in a way that draws others to Jesus.
- We will share our faith with others.

May we be a blessing within and beyond God's Church, for the transformation of the world.

A Methodist Way of Life encourages us to grow together. Make time to discuss these questions regularly with others.

Worship

- What is the pattern of your prayer life?
- How easy or hard do you find it to pray?
- What has spoken to you recently in worship or in the Bible?
- When, lately, have you felt close to God or distant from God?

Learning and Caring

- How have you practised generosity since we last met?
- How have you shown hospitality to others recently?
- How are you caring for yourself?
- How and what are you learning now?

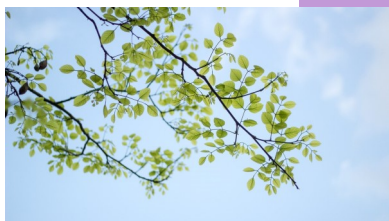
Service

- How are you seeking to serve others in your communities and beyond? What has helped or hindered you in your service of others?
- How are you caring for God's creation?
- How are you using God's gifts (including your financial resources)?
- What issues of injustice are you currently concerned about? What are you doing in response?

Evangelism

- When was the last time you were able to talk about God?
- What opportunities to share your faith have there been since we last met?
- How have you responded to opportunities to share your faith?
- Is there anyone you might invite to consider Christian faith?

How can we support each other in our Way of Life commitments?



The Queen's Platinum Jubilee!



This is an invitation to all Methodist churches.

An invitation to get out on your streets and celebrate - to go boldly and joyfully out into your neighbourhoods – to follow God into mission over the long weekend in June 2022.

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee, which is marked by an extended bank holiday weekend from Thursday 2nd to Sunday 5th June, is a chance to celebrate with your whole community.

It's a chance to meet people, to get to know them, to have fun together, to eat together, to laugh together, to celebrate community together.

It's a chance to extend a radical invitation to everyone in the neighbourhood, to include the lonely or isolated, to welcome people who get forgotten about or who don't join in very easily.

It's a chance to build relationships, share and hear stories, tell others you're a Christian, pray for your neighbours, be bold in your faith-sharing.

This is a chance to join in with God's mission on the streets of your community.

Here's the challenge to you:

Get involved in a street party or community event. Either plan something as a Church or join in with others who are already planning something for the long weekend.

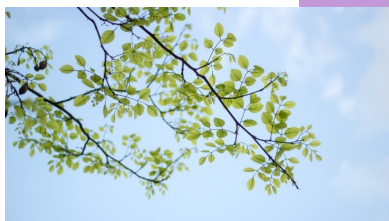
Extend the invitation to everyone. What can you do to make sure the whole neighbourhood can come along, especially those who are lonely, isolated, or marginalised in some way?

Pray for your community. The Jubilee weekend is at the same time as **Thy Kingdom Come**, the period when the whole Church focuses on praying for people to come to faith. When we join in with God's mission, it's essential we're praying about it! How can you pray for this in the lead up as individuals or a team, could you offer prayer at the event, and can you pray together afterwards for the people you've met?

Share your faith. We take our whole selves out onto the streets in celebration – we don't have to bottle up our faith and leave it safely at home. Community parties are a chance to be bold in our faith sharing. We talk a lot about needing to be better at evangelism, well, when we get to know our neighbours, God will give us opportunities to share our faith. We just need to listen to God, listen to others, and speak up about our experience of faith.

For more information go to <https://www.methodist.org.uk/jubilee>





Croston Trinity Methodist Church

More than just a building - the use of property in mission.

Storm Arwen brought wind gusts of up to 98mph before Christmas and was described by the Met Office, which gave a red warning, as one of “the most powerful and damaging winter storms of the latest decade”. It managed to rip slates away in two areas of the Croston church roof resulting in rain meandering through the roof space and into the interior of the church. Dr John Lightfoot, our property steward, improvised with great skill and creativity using his granddaughter’s paddling pool to collect the water!

This meant that the church could be still used for worship and as one of the venues for the successful Croston village Christmas fayre. The undaunted catering team served outstanding cakes and refreshments to the public all afternoon.

This is significant, as a Methodist building that is welcoming acts as a focal point for community engagement speaking powerfully of God’s love. The Methodist Church recognises that incorporating a range of social uses into an existing building, is as much a part of a mission plan as preaching, worship or community evangelism.

The roof is now repaired. The Methodist Church is encouraging us, where possible, to use property to fulfil the Church’s calling in a coherent way. Rev. Sue emphasised in her recent Reflection, the importance of protecting our covenant with the Lord in the days to come. The links with the local primary school and the use of the church building by the school will be very much part of our calling and of the 2022 mission plan.

Croston leadership team.





Upholland Methodist Church

Christmas angels in Up Holland

Again we knitted hundreds of angels – these were given out at services, to groups who use the building and hung on trees around the village for people to take.

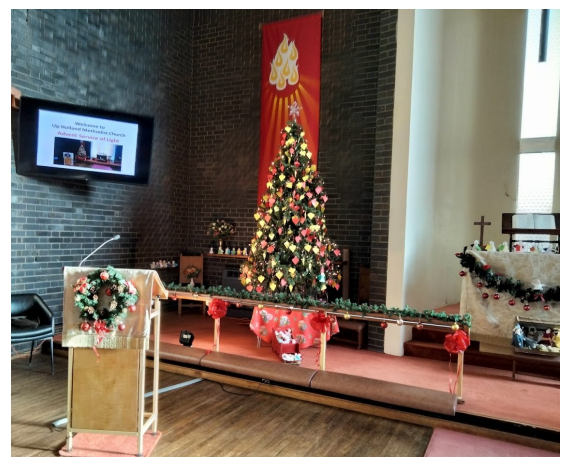
We had a toddler group Christmas party where the children were given a goody bag to take home containing an angel, Christmas decorations made by Noreen (one of our very talented members), a Christmas card to colour, Christmas biscuits etc. We also had lots of people in the community requesting angels in specific colours for family and friends.

Toy service:

We had our annual toy service with the uniformed groups led by Revd Michael at the beginning of December. All the toys and gifts donated were given to Up Holland Foodbank and were distributed to families locally. They were very much appreciated by the families.

Service of Light:

Each year we have a special own arrangement service in December where we remember those we have lost over the previous year. This year we were remembering those we have lost over the last two years as we had been unable to hold our service in 2020. It was especially poignant this year as we have lost a lot of members of our congregation since our last service in 2019. Throughout December hearts are placed on the Christmas tree bearing names of those we have loved and lost. The service is well attended, with many 'visitors' and is our largest congregation each year.





Mere Brow Methodist Church

The Real Christmas Message

We shared a special Service led by Natalie and the Sunday School Team

They had worked together over a few weeks to make the beautiful Christmas Display

It showed the different ways we celebrate and at the top the real Reason for the Season

A performance of the new Roger Jones Musical "Three Wise Camels" took place at Holmeswood Chapel on Sunday 19th December - members of Holmes, Mere Brow, and Holmeswood shared together in the production led by Graham Wright

At the beginning of a new year at Mere Brow we look forward to working together with other local Churches to maintain a witness of Christian Hope and promising to keep friends & neighbours within our Communities in our prayers as we put our trust in our Lord & Saviour who is the true Light of the World

We are working together with "Transforming Churches & Communities" to find new ways of outreach in our local areas

Later on in 2022 we hope to share with new friends in Lancashire West Circuit -

Some planned Summer Events are

Ladies' Rally in May

Walk of Witness in June

Open Day at the Vehicle Museum in July

Details/Dates will be shared nearer the time

There is still difficulty and disruption due to the pandemic and other concerns.

We look forward with hope and determination to remain strong as we put our trust in the Lord

Ever Blessing

Joan

Steward





The Place—written by Stella Connor

The place we always long to be
While out walking you and me
Dewy green grass under feet
Blanket the ground looking neat

My heart skips as we near the place
The expectation on your face

Again those trees magnificent
Stood in unison content
Encircling tower of evergreen
Scent of pine in air between

The place we always long to be
While out walking you and me.



Hi All,

Some of you may be aware that before Christmas my Granddaughter Freya lost her sight. It was a very worrying time for all of us but happily, after a lot of prayer and the magnificent medical team at Alder Hey Children's Hospital, her sight has now been restored. She is still on medication and attending regular check ups.

Freya and I are collecting used postage stamps for the RNIB and a box will be available at the front of Burscough Methodist Church.

I also have spare collection boxes if anyone would like one.

Hoping you can help us support this worthwhile charity.

Sid Cleary

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CHURCH SERVICES

	January		February			
	23 rd	30 th	6 th	13 th	20 th	27 th
Burscough Orrell Lane 10.00 HP, CMP, STF, NIV	Merle Farthing	Michael Tindsley S	Janet Walton	Andrew Richardson	o/a	Michael Tindsley
Holmeswood Holmeswood Rd 10.30 HP, CMP, STF	Michael Tindsley S	o/a	Malcolm Roxburgh	o/a	Michael Tindsley S	Geoff Farthing
Mere Brow Mere Brow Lane 10.30 MPC MHB	Abi Parr	Julia Robinson	Michael Tindsley S	Gordon Wareing	Local Arrangement	Merle Farthing
Holmes Park Lane 10.30 HP, MP, JP,	Cliff Hill	Stephen Foster	Anne Wallbank	Emma Birkbeck	Stephen Foster S	Shirley Potts
Tarleton Church Rd 10.30 HP, MP,	Stephen Foster S	o/a	Lynne Watson	David Allen	o/a	Stephen Foster S
Mawdesley Four Lane 10.30 Ends HP, MP, JP, NIV	Lorraine Howarth [R Dowson]	o/a	Geoff Farthing	Croston	Janet Walton	Sue Guénault HC
Croston Westhead Rd 10.30 HP, MP, STF,	Geoff Farthing	Sue Guénault Cov S	Merle Farthing	Stephen Foster	Jonathan Richardson F	Mawdesley
Ormskirk 10.30 Derby St HP, CMP, StF 6.30	Sue Guénault P F	Jenny Ashcroft	Sue Guénault S	Sue Guénault F P Baptism	David Hall	David Allen
Trinity High Street 11.00 STF, GNB	Helen Hindle	o/a	Stephen Foster S	Lorraine Howarth [R Dowson]	o/a	Jenny Ashcroft
Up Holland Alma Hill 11.00 STF LP	Malcolm Roxburgh	Up Holland & Dalton	o/a	Jenny Ashcroft	Michael Tindsley S	Up Holland & Dalton

MPC –Mission Praise Combined

CMP – Complete Mission Praise

HP – Hymns and Psalms

STF – Singing the Faith

MHB – Methodist Hymns Old and New

JP – Junior Praise LP – Let's Praise

NIV – New International Version GNB – Good News

o/a – Own Arrangement

S – Holy Communion

F – Family Service (all age)

P – Parade Service

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