

Good News

Lancashire West Methodist Circuit

Prayer of the Day from

Methodist.org.uk

Teach us, good Lord, to
serve you as you
deserve; to give and not
to count the cost; to fight
and not to heed the
wounds; to toil and not to
seek for rest; to labour
and not to seek for any
reward, save that of
knowing that we do your
will; through Christ our
Lord.

Amen

Ignatius of Loyola (1491-
1556)

Deadline for articles to
include in the next edition
of Good News is

Monday 2nd May

Please send to

Rev Stephen Foster

Stephenfos-
ter533@btinternet.com



Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and
grant me a willing spirit to sustain me.
Psalm 51:12

Lord, we all run out of hope, of strength, of
the will to do what is right. Help us today to
trust one more time in You and Your plan
for us. Thank you, LORD

Love Beyond Our Shores Update—Meet our Malawi Girls

For the past year, our circuit has
been raising funds to support 6 x girls
through secondary school education
at St Mary's Karonga Girls
Secondary situated in the far
Northern part of Malawi.

Known as the Lancashire West
Bursary, it is awarded to girls who
would not be able to attend school, if
not for this financial help.

Here is an introduction to our girls.
Their stories are sad and typical of
most Malawian girls who come from
poor families. Together, we can
make a difference to their lives.

Blandina Ngoma's father passed
away when she was young, there are
three in their family. They all live with
their grandmother who does not have
much to support them. Of course
their mother is alive, but the
responsibility is just very huge on
her. Her income (temporary piece
work) does not bring enough even to
feed her family.

Stella Mwatagha is a total orphan
who lost both parents and lives with
her grandmother, who is very old.
She is the first born in a family of
five. Stella persisted and arrived at
school regardless of the fact she had
no money at all. Looking at her with-
out any fees and no basic items for
school, the school administration
who handles issues concerning
bursaries had no choice but award
her a Lancashire West bursary. Her
grandmother, who is already
struggling to feed her siblings, upon
hearing that Stella had been select-
ed to start form one at St Mary's
Girls Secondary School, broke down
in tears knowing that she could not
alone have managed to send her to
school because of her financial
position.

Fatsani Nkhoma is a fourth born
daughter in a family of eight. Both
her parents live in Kasungu, the
Central region of Malawi at their
village in a remote area. They are
just small-scale subsistence farmers
whose produces are not even



Meet our Malawi Girls

enough to feed their family at home.

Josephine Kachikwa is the first born in a family of five. Her parents depend on subsistence farming in their home village to bring food on the table which has failed to support her school fees hence, needing assistance.

Mickdonna Chizumila is a third born in a family of five. Her parents depend on subsistence farming to support the family. She came to school with her father who wanted her to be given a transfer letter and start school at a community day secondary school at their village, where they pay very little fees. After being interviewed by the school administration and establishing that they indeed cannot pay fees, she was put on the bursary.

Lucia Mbukwa is third born in a family of seven children and she says her father is a primary

school teacher at a school near her village but as everyone knows in Malawi, teachers do not get much salary, especially primary school ones. It is even harder when one has that huge responsibility of taking care of seven children.

We give thanks for our girls and ask that God be with them through their education and bless their families.

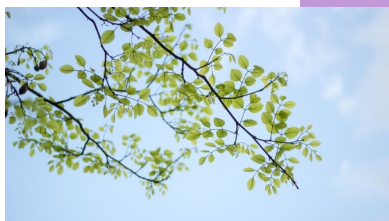
Conclusion: all the visits went on well and the girls sent their gratitude to Lancashire West for the support that came at a time when they needed it most.

Compiled by: Mercy Sibande (Mamie Martin Fund Manager Malawi).

www.justgiving.com/campaign/LancashireWest



The 'Lancashire West' Girls



Events Around The Circuit

Burscough Methodist Church

Sit and Knit' group

Wednesday 8.30am - 11am. (At STAR café)

Sit , Knit (or Crochet) and Chat.

Learn with others, spare needles and wool available

Also games e.g. cards and draughts if you don't fancy knitting

Book swap available

Toast and brews available in the café for a small donation.

Emmanuel Methodist URC, Ormskirk

Community Hub

We are open 10am-3pm EVERY Thursday!

Come along and enjoy free tea, coffee, cake and biscuits plus conversation.

You are also welcome to bring along your own craft projects...as long as they fit on a table! So far people's crafts have included

crochet, needlework, knitting and even poetry and 'life stories' have been shared!

We look forward to meeting you soon...if we have not met you already!

Mere Brow Methodist Church

COME4COFFEE

Mere Brow Coffee Morning

The **LAST TUESDAY** each Month

10-30am to 12 noon

Toasted Teacake Tea / Coffee

Love Beyond Our Shores / Trinity Methodist URC, Skelmersdale.

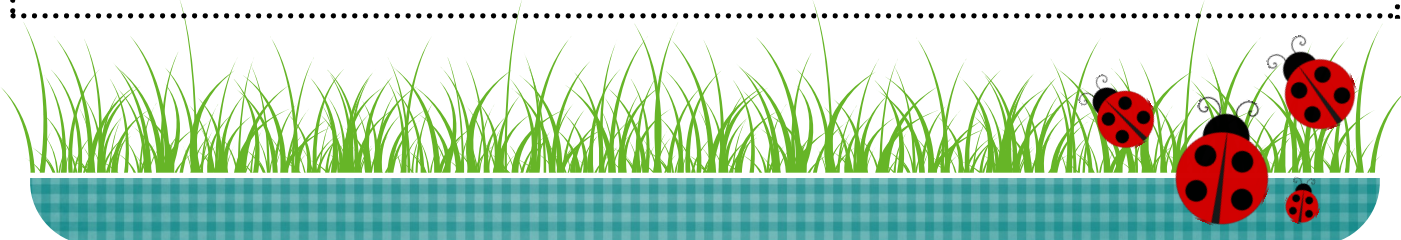
Sunday 8th May - Celebration and Circuit Service.

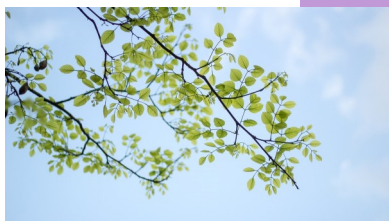
This is a celebration of the renovations of our Church. Moira Dunworth from the Mamie Martin Fund will be coming down from Scotland and there will be an exhibition of Photos of their work in Malawi.

The Church will be open from 3.30pm and an afternoon tea will be provided.

At 6.30pm, there will be a circuit service, led by Rev Michael Tindsley, and Moira will show a video of the six girls we are supporting and give us information on the schools etc.

All are invited to come in the afternoon and the evening.





**BURSCOUGH FOODBANK
at Burscough Methodist Church**

**OPEN EVERY THURSDAY
10.00 - 12.00 NOON**

We are also a collection point and open for donations.

**Monday and Wednesday
8.30 - 11.00am**

Tuesday 8.30 - 10.00am (term time Only)

Thursday 7.00 - 8.00pm

Sunday Morning Worship

Good News from Holmeswood Methodist School

One of our schools, Holmeswood Methodist School was inspected last month and the inspection report has just been published. The school continues to be a good school and provide a good education for the pupils. This is one of our smallest schools with just 52 pupils so addressing some of the expectations around curriculum development is a greater challenge.

Once again the school pet received a mention in the report, although it's the first time I've heard of a school having a snake as a pet! What is clear throughout the report is that the Methodist ethos underpins all the school do, they talk about being ambitious for all children, pupils having strong relationships with staff and describe the school as one big family.

Yet they are active young citizens who are inclusive and welcoming of all. "Pupils, including children in early years, learn about different faiths, cultures and people. They respect these differences. As one pupil said: 'Everyone is unique, and that is good.'"

We are rightly proud of the achievement of Holmeswood Methodist School and the education they are providing for pupils

Best wishes

Julie-Ann

Executive Team

Methodist Academies Schools Trust

Message of Thanks—David Fletcher

It has been about 50 years since I was last involved in asking people for sponsorship. That was when I was a boy scout raising funds for new camping equipment and well before anyone had heard of crowdfunding via the internet. Church life featured prominently as I was growing up, as it had in my parents' and grandparents' lives too, and as a family we were actively involved in all kinds of church events at Bold Street Methodist church in Warrington. My parents had many roles at church, most notably my father was the organist. Therefore, church music and singing has always been around me and when I was learning to play the piano as a boy, I used to practise by playing hymn tunes. I can recall the first time I was asked to play the piano for the Sunday school at the age of 13 and being so nervous but excited to be following in my Dad's footsteps, so it was the natural thing for me to progress to the organ, and by the age of 18 I had played for my first service.

Fast forward over 40 years and a church meeting at Mawdesley where the discussion had focussed around fund raising and I found myself offering to play all 823 hymn tunes, back to back, from Hymns and Psalms for sponsorship. I knew that it would take more than a couple of hours to complete and suggested that my wife Liz could provide refreshments, if we opened church and invited people in, to enjoy their favourite hymn tune with a cuppa. What was not to like? Methodists, Hymns, Singing, Teas, Cakes... they all go together so well, and raise some money too.

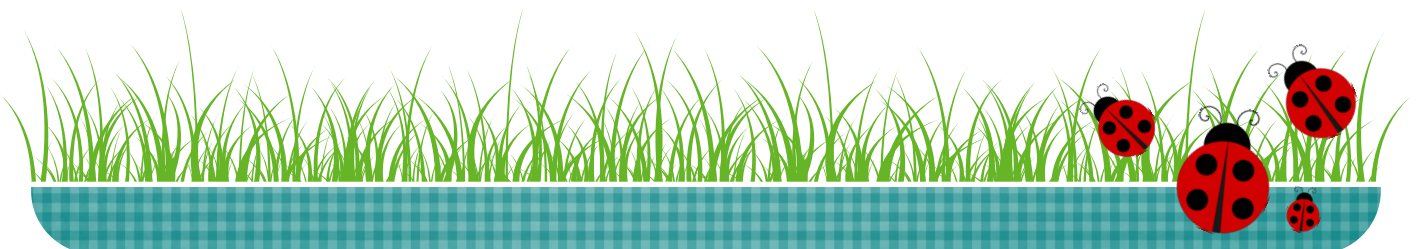
It was agreed, and in addition to the Hymnathon it was decided to combine with an art exhibition, put together by the local U3A Art group, and a skilled local potter, demonstrating how he throws his range of terracotta garden pots. Our Arts Weekend was organised.

I started my marathon last Saturday at 7am with 'All People that on Earth do Well', which was witnessed by our first supporter of the day, who had arrived early to see that I got off to a good start. Christmas arrived at 8.20am - it did feel strange to be playing 'Away in a Manger' and all the Christmas carols in Lent, and a little later we had the traditional harvest hymns ...in March!

By 9am I was going great guns and I played the first request of the day, for some visitors from Eccleston who called in to hear their wedding hymns. During the day someone else paid to hear their wedding hymn 'Fight the Good Fight' (a wedding hymn I hear you say? it takes all sorts!)

At number one in our hit parade of favourite hymns was 'Lord of all Hopefulness', which had 7 requests during the day; thinking about everything currently going on in our world, especially in Ukraine, I thought this was most appropriate. 'Great is thy Faithfulness', a favourite of mine, had 4 requests and I was more than happy to oblige.

On the advice of our organ tuner, I tried to play in blocks of 50 tunes, which meant that I took a short break roughly every 45 minutes, but more importantly this meant that the instrument had a rest too. That gave me plenty of opportunities to enjoy the warm, friendly atmosphere and chat with all the visitors while sampling the refreshments. The day seemed to pass by so quickly and the feeling of good Christian company added to the special ambience, and before I knew it at 8pm I was playing the final hymn, ending with loud applause from the last few well-wishers, and even a dog who had stayed on to the end to support me. It was a full 13 hours since I started out on my venture.





Message of thanks cont..

It was a great feeling to have completed the challenge, and I am extremely touched and grateful to have received so much support especially those who were able to come along to church on the day. You kept me going with your kind comments, singing and encouragement. I am also extremely thankful to all the sponsors who donated so generously through my crowd funding page.

The total we have raised so far is almost £2500, which will go a long way towards the cost of a new sound system and projector for Mawdesley Methodist church.

And for the future somebody did mention to me that Singing the Faith would be a good challenge. (748 tunes) or even Mission Praise (1385) I need to think about that.

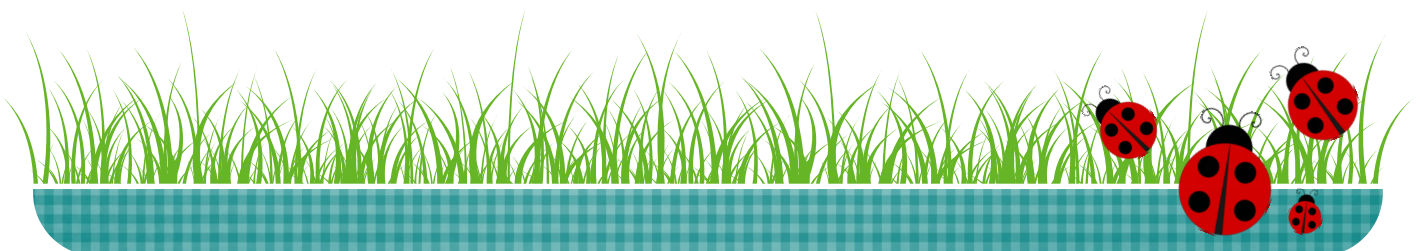
Thank you all again. David Fletcher

If anyone feels able to add to our total and support our fundraising here is the link to my crowdfunding page

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/hymnathon12>

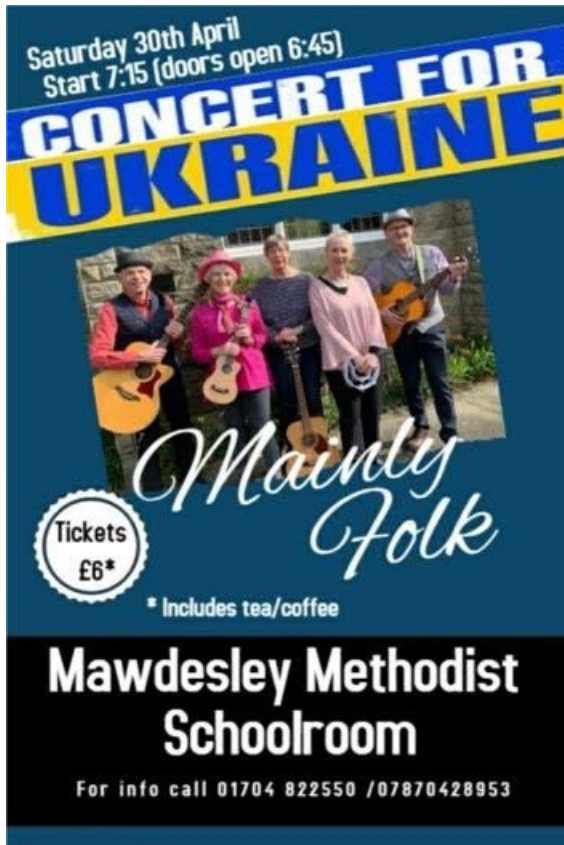


Rev Sue and David Fletcher enjoying a well earned cuppa





Mawdesley Methodist Church



Ruth & Neill Thompson from Mawdesley Methodist Church, along with three friends, sing together as a Folk group called 'Mainly Folk'.

They are holding a Folk Concert in the Schoolroom on Saturday 30th April starting at 7.15pm.

They will be singing popular Folk Songs from Sea Shanties to Simon and Garfunkel.

Originally, monies raised, were going to Church funds but after a discussion with Rev. Stephen Foster and Church members, it was agreed that the money should go to Ukraine via 'International Aid' which is a local charity based at Much Hoole.

If you would like tickets (£6) please ring Ruth or Neill on 01704 822550 or 07870428953. or email neillruth23@gmail.com

We can seat 60. It is on a first come first served basis.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 15 - 21 May 2022

Your gifts this Christian Aid Week could help Jessica in Zimbabwe to set up water taps on her farm, learn to grow food and provide seeds that thrive in drought, giving her all she needs to turn her dry dusty land into a garden of hope.

Jessica says 'It pains me to send my children to bed hungry'.

UKRAINE

Christian Aid is working through the Disasters Emergency Committee and A.C.T. Alliance to help the stricken refugees and internally displaced people of Ukraine.

www.christianaid.org.uk





Upholland Methodist Church

At UpHolland church we have decided to make use of the large outside wall of black brick as an 'advertising' space.

We have designed 12 banners, about 5ft X 3ft - one for each month - and have just put up the first one!

Many people drive or walk up and down Alma Hill and we hope to turn people's thoughts to God as they do so.



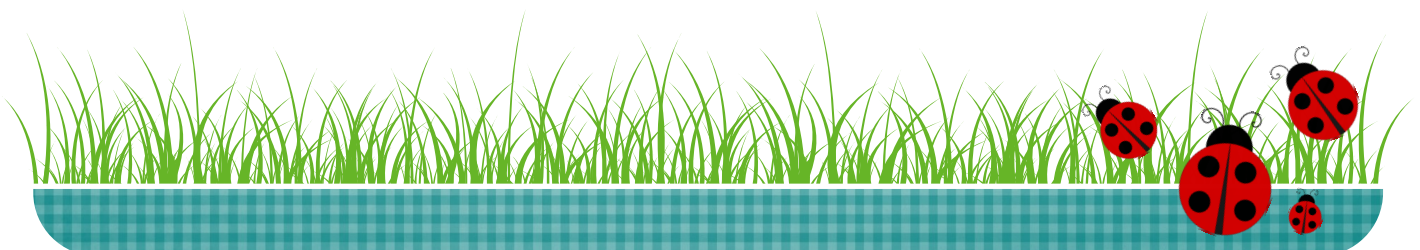
Be at peace

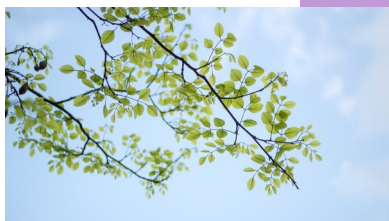
Do not look forward to what might happen tomorrow,
the same everlasting Father who cares for you today
will take care of you tomorrow and everyday.

Either he will shield you from suffering or he will give
you unfailing strength to bear it.

Be at peace then and put aside all anxious
thoughts and imaginings.

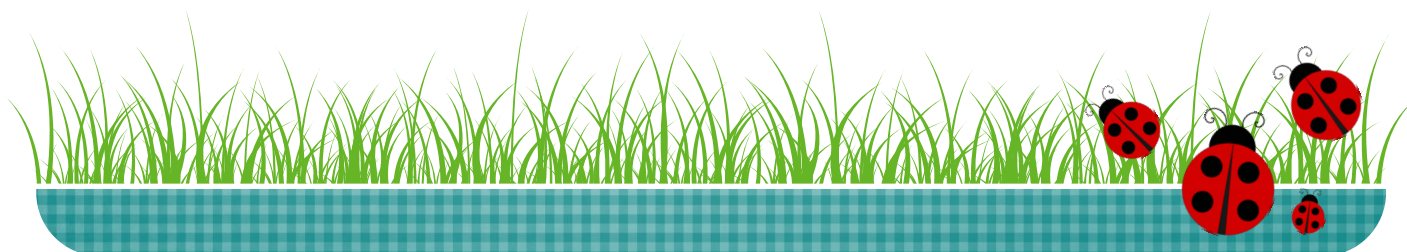
Anon





Holy Week in the Lancashire West Circuit

Wednesday 13th April	Upholland Methodist	7.30pm	Stations of the Cross
Maundy Thursday 14th April	Trinity Methodist URC, Skelmersdale	6.30pm	Passover Meal and readings on the Stations of the Cross
	Burscough Methodist	7.00pm	Holy Communion in the Church. Burscough extends its welcome to everyone in the circuit
	Emmanuel Methodist URC, Ormskirk	7.00pm	Holy Communion at Emmanuel with our friends from Ormskirk Parish Church
Good Friday 15th April	Tarleton Methodist	9.30am	Reflective service on the passion of Jesus shared by members of the congregations from Holmes, Holmeswood and Mere Brow
	Burscough Methodist	10.00am	Meditations at the Cross
	Trinity Methodist URC, Skelmersdale	10.30am	Invitation to join St Paul's Parish Church for a Witness Walk
	Emmanuel Methodist URC, Ormskirk	11.00am	Good Friday Meditation – a short service of music, poetry and readings, followed by an invitation to join our Ecumenical partners at the Ormskirk Clock Tower at 12.00pm
	Upholland Methodist	12 noon	At the monument
Easter Sunday	All worship services are featured in the plan overleaf		
	Trinity Methodist URC, Skelmersdale	9.30am	Full English Breakfast is served before worship at 11.00am
	Holmeswood Methodist Church	6.30pm	'Jerusalem Joy' an Easter Cantata by Roger Jones Singers from Holmeswood, Holmes and Mere Brow



CHURCH SERVICES

	April			May				
	10th	17th Easter	24th	1st	8th	15th	22 nd	29 th
Burscough Orrell Lane 10.00 HP, CMP, STF,	David Allen	Michael Tindsley F S	o/a	Malcolm Abbott	Michael Tindsley JCA	Janet Walton	o/a	Michael Tindsley S
Holmeswood Holmeswood Rd 10.30 HP, CMP, STF	o/a	Malcolm Abbott <i>"Jerusalem Joy" 6.30</i>	tbc	Michael Tindsley	o/a	Geoff Farthing	Mere Brow	o/a
Mere Brow Mere Brow Lane 10.30 CMP, MHB, HP	Michael Tindsley S	Barbara Clarke	o/a	Holmeswood	Emma Birkbeck LD	o/a	Michael Tindsley S	Gordon Wearing
Holmes Park Lane 10.30 HP, MP, JP,	Cliff Hill	Stephen Foster S	Geoff Farthing	Emma Birkbeck F	Andrew Richardson	o/a	Andrew Richardson	Stephen Foster S
Tarleton Church Rd 10.30 HP, MP,	Malcolm Roxburgh	Stephen Foster S 9.30	o/a	Stephen Foster	Geoff Farthing	Merle Farthing	Stephen Foster S	o/a
Mawdesley Gorse Lane 10.30 HP, MP, JP, NIV	Croston	Sue Guénault S 9.30	Stephen Foster	o/a	Stephen Foster S	Lorraine Howarth	Jonathan Richardson	Merle Farthing
Croston Westhead Rd 10.30 HP, MP, STF,	Sue Guénault S	Mawdesley	Lynne Watson	Merle Farthing	tbc	Sue Guénault F	o/a	Geoff Farthing S
Ormskirk 10.30 Derby St HP, CMP, SiF	Merle Farthing	Sue Guénault S 11.00	David Allen	o/a	Sue Guénault	Jenny Ashcroft	Sue Guénault S	Sue Guénault F Baptism
Trinity High Street 11.00 STF, GNB 6	Stephen Foster	Geoffrey Farthing S	Janet Walton	o/a	Michael Tindsley Circuit Service 6.30	Stephen Foster S	David Allen	Malcolm Abbott
Up Holland Alma Hill 11.00 STF LP	Lorraine Howarth	Michael Tindsley S 11.15	Chris Dunbar	Jenny Ashcroft	David Allen	Michael Tindsley S	Paul Givens	Nick Daunt

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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