

Lancashire West Methodist Circuit

Prayer of the Day from

Methodist.org.uk

At your Last Supper,
Lord, there was a place
for all, a place for
disciples who believed, as
well as for one who
doubted. There was a
place for the power
seekers and the power-
less, for the 'rock' who
would crumble when
challenged and for one
who valued you at thirty
pieces of silver. There
was enough room. When
we are tempted to pick
and choose our table
companions,
Lord, forgive our
judgmental attitudes and
help us to find room at
life's table for all,
marvelling that even we
ourselves are among the
guests. Amen.

Stephen Bales,
supernumerary presbyter
and Equality and Diversity
Officer, Cornwall and the
Isles of Scilly District



As for God, His way is perfect: the word of the LORD is flawless. He is a shield for all who take refuge in him. 2 Samuel 22:31

Lord, all we can depend on is Your Word. It is perfect because You are. Let us stake our very lives upon this truth today. Give us more faith please.

International Aid Trust—I.A.T

I.A.T. is a local Christian Charity that has been working tirelessly in what is known as the Eastern Bloc, the part of Europe that before the fall of the Berlin Wall and the Iron Curtain was under Communist Rule. The founder was Bernard Cocker who started his Christian journey when Ivor Heaton, a dedicated Christian invited him to help take Bibles into Russia. Later, he began to realise that God was calling him to take Aid into Eastern Europe as there was a desperate need. They had so little, so International Aid was birthed.

It started very small in Chorley, but as others caught the vision, it expanded and it wasn't long before they needed larger premises. This was when they went into a large warehouse on the Longton Business Park which is in fact on the A59 at Hoole. The warehouse soon was packed with donations from near and far. They had a few paid staff who moved things around in the warehouse and filled the trucks. Most people who sorted and packed, were volunteers.

When I first went to help, a few of us from Holmes were packing warm clothing for Colin Powell a Christian Biker, who with Ivor Heaton would be taking them to Romania. We then decided we would go and help at I.A.T. every Tuesday. Sorting and packing, mostly into age groups and men's and ladies.

Sometimes we would be sorting out clothes and items that Customs had confiscated as they were fakes, the labels had to be cut out. At first we did pack boxes, but later on clothes and bedding went into a press and then wrapped. All the clothing, shoes, bedding, curtains, towels and kitchenware had been donated or come from the shops that I.A.T. Had in many towns. People sent their old glasses, which were very welcome, as also were toys. Many knitted items came in, baby clothes, some so tiny from premature babies and of course lots of trauma teddies, blankets, lots of wool and material for sewing clothes.

It was a joy to pack such items,



International Aid Trust cont...

knowing how much they were needed. I met many other volunteers over the years and made friends. It was a nice atmosphere and everyone enjoyed what they were doing. For an hour on a Tuesday afternoon a prayer meeting was held. This was the power house of I.A.T. If Bernard was in the office, he would join the prayer meeting and update us on his visits to Ukraine, Sierra Leone or India, so the prayers would be mostly for the ongoing work in these countries. They would concentrate, either on the ongoing work in Ukraine, especially the prison work, he headed with the Pastor there. Many prisoners came to accept Jesus as their Lord and Saviour and lives were transformed. Even the prison warders welcomed them when they saw the difference and the change in the atmosphere of the prison. Many of these prisoners, when released, began to help in the ministry.

Bernard would update us on the work in Sierra Leone at the New Hope Primary School, which I.A.T. had helped to build. When he first went, the children were taught outside as they had no building. I.A.T. provided finances to be able to provide every child a meal at lunchtime. This is a Christian school and in the village is also a Muslim school who didn't get a meal provided, so Bernard said that I.A.T. would provide for those children as well. Local schools provided I.A.T. with school equipment to be sent out.

I.A.T. have also helped in providing the village with a well and pump so the villagers have fresh water. They have also helped with the building of an orphanage, as some of the children lost their parents when Ebola struck the village. At the present time the leaders of the school are preparing to build a Senior School so that the children can carry

on their education in a Christian School.

Bernard has also been to India helping a Christian minister in a very poor area, taking the Gospel to those who are ostracised by most Indians. They send over Aid that is so needed over there. Since the pandemic I.A.T. were unable to send out aid and many of their shops had to close. This meant that they had to close the Hoole warehouse. Last year they moved to Chorley, where their office and furniture store is now and late last year they were able to acquire a warehouse in Lostock Hall. Over the last five weeks they have been run off their feet since Russia invaded Ukraine. Many people have volunteered to help.

Bernard is speaking to Pastor Pasha who is I.A.T. Co-ordinator in the Ukraine. Up to date 1st April, 12 trucks of Aid have made their way to Moldova and I know that 9 trucks have delivered the Aid into Ukraine, and others are on their way. The first week, we at Holmes were able to take bags of clothes and bedding. Later 150 shoe boxes were made up by some of our Church Family and friends, which were delivered as well as lots of dried foods.

The Lord has touched many hearts, you should see the mountains of donations that have been taken to Lostock Hall. God's work is going forth. Bernard always said. "This is God's work and that is the only reason it has grown".

Now, after the set back it is reborn and is growing stronger yet again.- PRAISE THE LORD!

Barbara Meynell Holmes



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-1.30pm 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

Emmanuel Methodist URC, Ormskirk

Saturday Coffee House 10.30pm—1.30pm

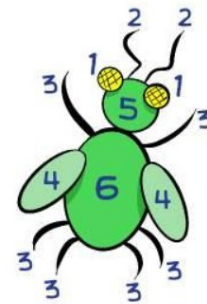
You are warmly invited to a live music concert on

Saturday 21st May

at 11am by the Ukulele Band

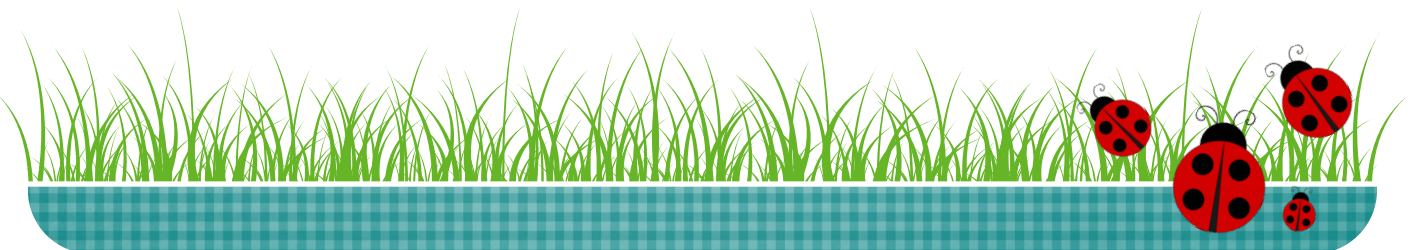
"Off Our Rockers"

Beetle Drive
Up Holland Methodist Church
Alma Hill



Saturday 21st May 7pm

Tickets £5 (including buffet supper)
from Linda on 07956 816837 or 01695 622414





ONE Programme: Connexion



Are you aged between 18-30? Do you feel called to share your faith?

Want to work with an exciting project for a year learning about faith sharing and leadership?

ONE Programme: Leadership may be the place for you!

Somewhere Else—The Bread Church

Community Engagement and Bread Making Facilitator Role

Salary: £7722

Location: City Centre Methodist Church, Liverpool

This is a 1 year (from 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2022) fixed-term,

Part-time vacancy—15 hours Tuesdays and Thursdays

Perhaps one of Liverpool's best-kept secrets, this fragile Methodist church, community-based in the heart of the city centre has worked with the marginalised of Liverpool for more than twenty years. Gathering as a diverse community of all faiths and none around the making and sharing of bread, they extend 'outrageous hospitality' to anyone who crosses the threshold on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Become part of the team in this new role.

Check out the Methodist church website for more details about the ONE programme and more specifically about being a Community Engagement Bread Making Facilitator

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-work/children-youth-family-ministry/for-young-adults-explore-calling-grow-in-faith/one-programme/one-programme-leadership/>

The link to find out more about the role and apply for the OLP role:

<https://methodist.current-vacancies.com/Jobs/Advert/2613260?cid=1885>

For an informal discussion with a member of the team

Heather Lovelady on 0151 513 9883 or email: heather.lovelady@outlook.com

Closing Date: Wednesday, 25th May

Interviews will be held in Liverpool on Wednesday 15th June 2022



Pilgrim Way

During lockdown, I spent time discovering local footpaths past fields, and along rivers and canals; I found peace as I walked. The routes sometimes took me to unlocked parish churches. I found paths that I didn't know existed. I was planning to write a booklet of local walks, but after watching Songs of Praise episodes where people set up pilgrim routes, and inspired by the charity walk that some of you did for MIND, connecting our Methodist churches, I thought we could begin to create a network of pilgrim walks. This is something that could go across circuit and denominational boundaries. I am drawn to the idea of a Way that crosses boundaries.

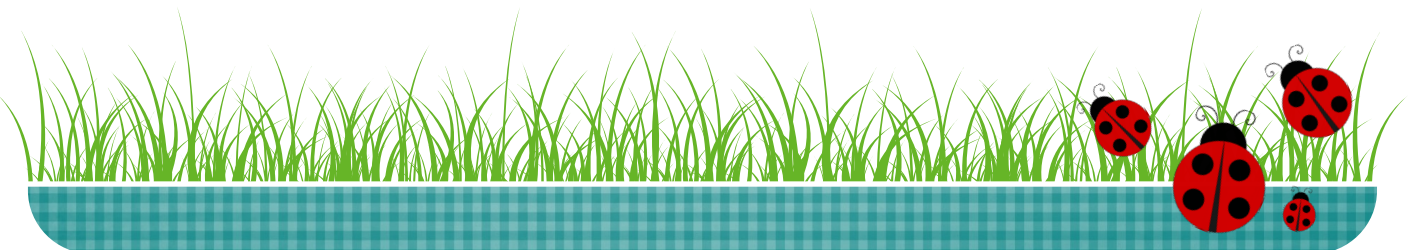
I have made a start, and have produced a first draft of one leaflet; I envisage that each leaflet will contain one walk, and will be on one piece of A4 paper, folded in half. This is easy to produce/ photocopy and means that the selection of walks can easily be expanded, or be amended if routes change. I have a few more routes in mind within my immediate local area, but would love to talk to anybody who shares an interest in suggesting routes, identifying accessible/ inclusive routes, writing/designing leaflets, or testing route instructions. We could produce a few leaflets of walks starting from our own churches, as well as involving people from neighbouring places of worship. The walks could link places of worship, or be circular routes.

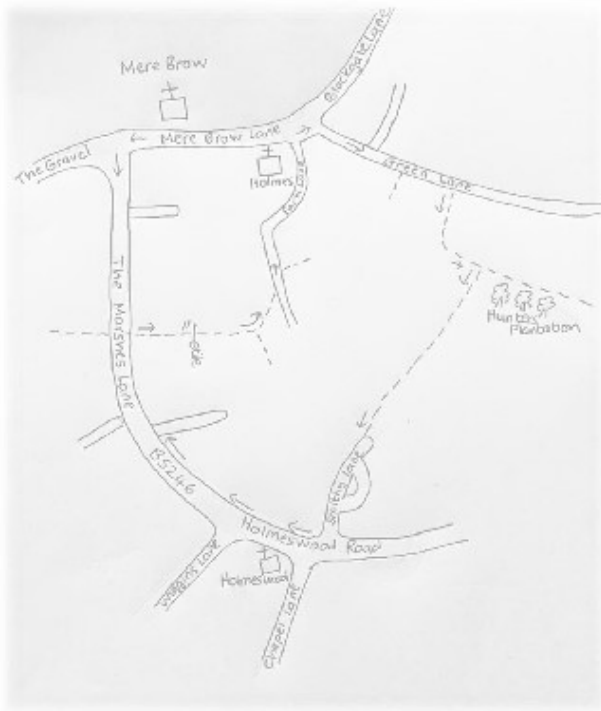
As time progresses, we could:

- Distribute leaflets in our local area (including shops and cafes)
- Create spaces of rest and reflection outside the churches and chapels involved.
- Create notice boards with a map of chapels and churches, and maybe a QR code to scan for more information
- Liaise with our local parish councils about the creation of accessible/ inclusive routes.
- Offer guided pilgrimages of different lengths.
- Create an exhibition of photographs and paintings of local wildflowers and local scenery based on these routes, incorporating Bible passages, prayers and meditations.
- Hold a pilgrimage day where all the churches are open for the day.

This is something that could start small, with just a few leaflets, and then grow organically. Please do get in touch with me if you or your walking group would like to be involved in any way. Even if you do not want to develop a leaflet yourself, I am happy to talk to you, and draft a leaflet for you to check!

Helen Hindle





Map not to scale (and all the twists and turns are not shown)

Leaflet date: January 2022

Pilgrim Way

Mere Brow – Holmes – Holmeswood

Start: Mere Brow Methodist Church, Mere Brow Lane, Mere Brow, Tarleton, Preston PR5 6JP (Grid ref: 419 188)

Map: OS Explorer 285 (Southport and Chorley)

Parking: Mere Brow Village Hall

Toilets: Mere Brow Village Hall (for patrons), Holmes Methodist Church

Refreshments available at Mere Brow (Legh Arms, Mere Brow Deli, Mere Brow Village Hall)

Length: 4.6 miles (can be shortened to 1.8 miles)

This circular walk links three Methodist chapels. The route is along public footpaths and quiet lanes across fields, and sections on footpaths at the side of roads. Sections of the walk can be muddy in winter. There is one stile on the walk.

This is one of a series of routes connecting churches as well as circular routes incorporating churches. We hope that you find refreshment as you walk along these routes, finding wholeness and peace with creation, with God and with each other.

Start the route at **Mere Brow Methodist Church**. Spend some time enjoying the Bible Garden at the side of the chapel. With your back to the chapel, turn right down Mere Brow Lane. At the T junction, turn left down the Marshes Lane (B5246). Proceed down the Marshes Lane for 650 yards.

Look out for a public footpath sign on your left-hand side. Turn left and follow the track. Eventually, you will come to a stile. Climb over the stile and continue on the track. You will see views of Winter Hill in the distance.

The track bends left and then right, before emerging at a lane.

Turn left along the lane. Follow the lane, as it eventually bends right and then left, as it becomes Park Lane. This lane takes you past farms, to **Holmes Methodist Church**.

For a shorter route, as you leave Holmes Methodist Church, turn left at the T junction onto Mere Brow Lane. This takes you back to Mere Brow. Please note that there is no footpath by the road for part of this route.

For the full route, as you leave Holmes Methodist Church, turn right at the T junction, onto Blackgate Lane, then turn right down Green Lane. This lane is mainly used by farm vehicles, and takes you past fields.

You will come across tracks on your right. Ignore the first track, it is private land. At the second track, turn right. Follow this track. It eventually bears left towards woodland (Hunters plantation).

As you approach the woodland, there is a track on your right-hand side. Take this track, so that you are walking with the wood on your left-hand side. This track gets very muddy in winter.

Follow this track, which ends at a farm. Walk through the farmyard and onto Smithy Lane. Continue along Smithy Lane. At the end of Smithy Lane, you will see **Holmeswood Methodist Church**.

Cross the road to explore Holmeswood Methodist Church.

With your back to Holmeswood Methodist Church, turn left down Holmeswood Road (B5246). Holmeswood Road, becomes The Marshes Lane and takes you back to Mere Brow.

**I lift up my eyes to the hills—
from where will my help come?
My help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.**

Psalm 121



is an opportunity to learn and explore a bible story through crafts, games, song, and chat, and share a meal together.

All are welcome but any children must be accompanied by an adult.

The next sessions are

Emmanuel, Ormskirk Sat 14th May and Sat 11th June 4.30pm-6.00pm

Croston Methodist Tues 10th May and Tues 7th June 4.30pm-6.00pm

Please book onto Croston Messy Church via rev.sue@guenault.co.uk

Tues 17th May 7.30pm via zoom

Weds 18th May 2pm at Trinity Methodist URC, Skelmersdale

Messy Vintage

from The Bible Reading Fellowship 

For further details on all the events above, please contact our Family and Schools Worker—Cheryl
family.schools@lancashirewest.org.uk

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 15 - 21 May 2022

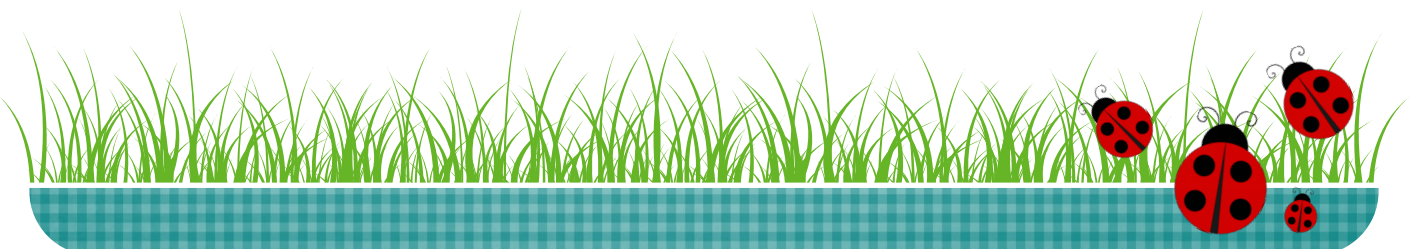
Your gifts this Christian Aid Week could help Jessica in Zimbabwe to set up water taps on her farm, learn to grow food and provide seeds that thrive in drought, giving her all she needs to turn her dry dusty land into a garden of hope.

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



CHURCH SERVICES

	May			
	8 th	15 th	22 nd	29 th
Burscough Orrell Lane 10.00 HP, CMP, STF,	Michael Tindsley JCA	Janet Walton	o/a	Michael Tindsley S
Holmeswood Holmeswood Rd 10.30 HP, CMP, STF	o/a	Geoff Farthing	Mere Brow	o/a
Mere Brow Mere Brow Lane 10.30 CMP, MHB, HP	Emma Birkbeck LD	o/a	Michael Tindsley S	Gordon Wearing
Holmes Park Lane 10.30 HP, MP, JP,	Andrew Richardson	o/a	Andrew Richardson	Stephen Foster S
Tarleton Church Rd 10.30 HP, MP,	Geoff Farthing	Merle Farthing	Stephen Foster S	o/a
Mawdesley Gorse Lane 10.30 HP, MP, JP, NIV	Stephen Foster S	Lorraine Howarth	Jonathan Richardson	Merle Farthing
Croston Westhead Rd 10.30 HP, MP, STF,	tbc	Sue Guénault F	o/a	Geoff Farthing S
Ormskirk 10.30 Derby St HP, CMP, SF	Sue Guénault	Jenny Ashcroft	Sue Guénault S	Sue Guénault F Baptism
Trinity High Street 11.00 STF, GNB 6	Michael Tindsley Circuit Service 6.30	Stephen Foster S	David Allen	Malcolm Abbott
Up Holland Alma Hill 11.00 STF LP	David Allen	Michael Tindsley S	Paul Givens	Nick Daunt

MPC – Mission Praise Combined
 CMP – Complete Mission Praise
 o/a – Own Arrangement
 HP – Hymns and Psalms
 S – Holy Communion
 STF – Singing the Faith
 F – Family Service (all age)
 MHB – Methodist Hymns Old and New
 P – Parade Service
 JP – Junior Praise
 LP – Let's Praise
 NIV – New International Version
 GNB – Good News

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

Monday 6th June

Please send to Rev Stephen Foster

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Jayne Chard

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