

Lancashire West Methodist Circuit

The Methodist Church's Advent and Christmas campaign for 2022 begins.

There is Room for us all in the story of God's boundless love, no matter where we are, how we feel, or how hopeless everything might seem.

There is Room for us all, no matter how much we may feel looked down on, no matter what shame or guilt or prejudice we may carry.

There is Room for us all, no matter how alone, or different we may feel.

There is Room for us all, even if we feel stuck in cycles of addiction, or our lives have become flooded with hate and despair. Each week throughout Advent and Christmas there will be new content on this page,

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/there-is-room/>



You are the light of the world...Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds & glorify your Father in heaven. Matt. 5:14, 16.

LORD, we long to glorify & honour You in our lives, but we need You to empower us with Your Holy Spirit to do so.

Dear friends.

As I write I am coming to the end of my first quarter in the Lancashire West Circuit. I'd like to thank you all for welcoming me so warmly.

It has been a time of firsts for me: first Holy Communions, first wedding, and sadly, first funeral. Firsts are never easy, and only when we have gone through them can we look back and ask ourselves what we have learned from that experience.

As we move into the seasons of Advent and Christmas, we begin to think about another set of firsts.

A young woman is chosen by God to bring the Son of God into the world, to nurture him and to bring him up. This baby is not only Mary's first pregnancy, a huge event in itself, but is the first baby that is both fully human and fully divine. We know that Jesus was circumcised and named (see Luke 2:21) and Jesus' parents will probably have celebrated other milestones such as his first words and steps.

I wonder whether, this Christmas, we could pause to take notice of where this baby is in our lives today. Just to pause and take five minutes in the day to stop and ask, 'Where can I see Jesus in this situation?' This may help us to see or understand something new in that moment. Something of love. That first and endless love that comes to us in the form of the baby Jesus.

I wish you a very happy Christmas.

Love Alex

Deadline for articles to include in the next edition of Good News is **Monday 30th January**

New Life for Ormskirk Manse

Ormskirk Manse has had a rough time in recent months. It was severely damaged following a fire and also a victim of vandalism.

The Circuit trustee's considered selling it but felt swayed to offer it for use by a refugee family, if possible.

Following complete refurbishment, we are pleased to announce that from Autumn 2022, the manse is now in the hands of the Hope Foundation.

The Hope Foundation is a charity based in Liverpool, that aims to help anyone and everyone who may find themselves in need of support.

One of their services is Refugee Resettlement - In partnership with local councils, they provide accommodation for families and individuals who have been granted asylum in the UK.

They work with them by providing one on one support, befriending, financial support and community integration.

The Hope Foundation will now manage the manse on the Circuit's behalf and liaise with the refugee tenants.

We pass on our thanks to the Circuit Stewards, in particular Derek Ashcroft, for working with authorities to make this happen.

We ask for your prayers for our tenants, as Ormskirk Manse begins a new chapter in its journey.

Christmas is the time when we celebrate God coming into our midst. For many people, this is a joyful time with family and friends but it can also be isolating for those in later life. Having a cup of tea with some friendly faces, taking a day out, or just chatting on the phone during the festive period is a wish come true for many.

This is why we are asking for your prayers this Christmas.

Precious wishes is our bible theme this Christmas at MHA with the story of Simeon and Anna Luke 2: 22-38. Simeon is an elderly priest who has wished his whole life to see the baby, Jesus. We also meet Anna, an elderly widow who is granted the blessing of seeing Jesus too. Simeon and Anna remind us that sometimes we have to be patient to witness God's plan and that those who trust and have faith in the Lord will be blessed.

To see how you can join our appeal and, together with your congregations, pray, reflect and support MHA, visit mha.org.uk/Christmas and download your free pack.



Good News from around the Circuit



Adam Lowe on arrival at Paris

Adam Lowe from Skelmersdale recently undertook a sponsored bike ride in aid of raised £560 for Skelmersdale and District Food-bank

Day 1 he rode from London to Dover

Day 2 he took the Ferry to Calais then cycled to Abbeville

Day 3 He cycled from Abbeville to Beauvais.

Day 4 He rode from Beauvais to Paris.

In total, he cycled 290 miles and raised £560.

Many thanks to Adam for this accomplishment and helping such a great cause.

Update on Freya Cleary

It was just over 12 months ago that we received the devastating news that my granddaughter Freya, then aged 10, had gone blind.

Thanks to the amazing staff at Alder Hey hospital, and a lot of prayer, her sight has been fully restored although she is still on medication.

Freya and I decided to collect used stamps for RNIB to help people who are not as fortunate as Freya and to date we have sent off a whopping **6000** stamps! to the RNIB.

Freya told her story at St. John's Brownies that she belongs to in Old Swan Liverpool and they are now sponsoring a guide dog for the blind.

Many thanks to everyone who has helped us to collect such an amazing amount and please feel free to continue to save used stamps for this worthy cause.

Sid Cleary
Burscough Methodist Church



Good News from Mere Brow Methodist

120th Mere Brow Chapel Anniversary

NOVEMBER- a month for remembering - at Mere Brow it has been a very special time. We joined with friends from our JOIN4WORSHIP Group as we celebrated the 120th Anniversary of the "new" chapel and remembering also 1861 when the first chapel was opened.

As part of our own celebrations- we hosted an Exhibition commemorating the 250th Anniversary of Hugh Bourne -one of the founders of the Primitive Methodism- we were pleased to welcome children from 3 local schools who enjoyed looking at various artefacts relating to the early 19th Century. we shared a 21st Century "Love Feast" of cold/hot drinks, cake & biscuits.

It was interesting to see details of life in the early 19th Century - so many people were desperate for some Good News in their lives - Hugh Bourne together with William Clowes decided it was time to get out there and simply preach and share the Gospel Message bringing hope into the lives of ordinary people - the start of the Primitive Methodism Movement

Our Methodist Heritage is very precious to us in Mere Brow - Building a chapel in 1861 took great courage and determination. 2022 requires that same determination to go forward and JUST SHARE that same Good News in today's troubled world

If you visited us during our Anniversary weekend at Mere Brow- Thank you for coming

We look forward to a future filled with Peace and Hope as we put our trust in God's love for his people.



Christmas Events at Mere Brow/Holmes/Holmeswood December Dates

Sunday 4th

10.30am JOIN4WORSHIP at Holmeswood Chapel

Tuesday 13th

7.30pm Christmas Village Praise accompanied by Holmes Brass at Mere Brow Village Hall. Carols, readings and mince pies

Sunday 18th

10.30am Carol Service at Mere Brow

6-30pm

Christmas Musical
"THE INN CROWD" at Holmeswood Chapel

Saturday 24th

6.30pm Carols by Candlelight at Holmeswood

Christmas Day—led by Rev Michael Tindsley

9.30am Christmas Morning Celebration at Holmes.



December at Mawdesley Methodist

Advent

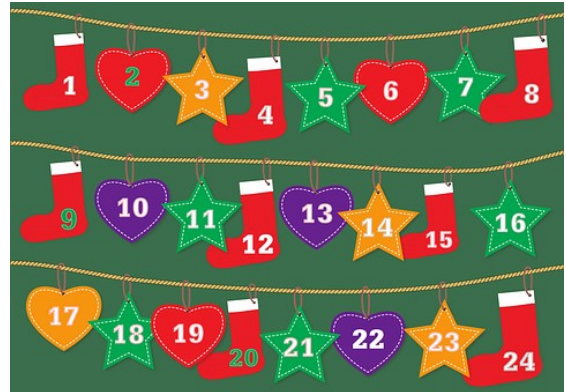
Monday weekly starting 28/11/2022

We will be taking part in Advent study sessions.
Monday evenings, 7.00pm in church.

Session dates are .

Dates are

Monday 28th Nov, 12th Dec and 19th Dec.



MAWDESLEY METHODIST CHURCH

Welcomes you to

OPEN DOORS

Our Doors are Open

1st Tuesday
of each month

9.30 am – 12.00 midday

A **warm invitation** to
meet and chat with
friends.

Refreshments
provided in the
school room.

Play **board games**.



Bring your own
crafts.

Church also open
for **quiet time** and
reflection.

Everyone Welcome.

Next Open Door Event

Tuesday 6th December

Mawdesley Methodist

Christmas Coffee Morning

Saturday 3rd December
10am - 12.30 pm
In school room.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

24th December
7.00pm
led by Rev Sue And Rev Alex

Christmas Day

25th December
10.00am
Christmas morning celebration
Led by David Allen

Croston Methodist

Sunday 11th December

10.30am Nativity Service
6.30pm Carol Service

Sunday 25th December

Christmas morning celebration



Good News at Upholland Methodist

Alan Jones's Cancer Research Push up challenge - 100 push-ups a day in November

The Big C is will attack most families and is indiscriminate. Personally, I have had two brushes with cancer; one age 29 and one 3 years ago. I am one of the lucky ones as I beat it. Two of my sisters have also recovered following treatment. However, my eldest sister lost her battle three years ago. My brother is law is currently undergoing treatment.

I decided to take on this challenge to raise money for Cancer Research so that one day all people can expect to beat it as I have. Thank you.



Please sponsor me if you can via my Giving Page on 'Up Holland Methodist Church's Facebook page'

Christmas Quiz

Up Holland Methodist Church

Alma Hill

Saturday 3rd December

6.30pm

Hotpot Supper

Everyone Welcome

Tickets £5 (primary school children free)
(01695 622414 or 07956 816837 to book)

Christmas Events at Up Holland Methodist Church

Sunday 4th

11.00am Toy Service with Rev Alex Laing

Tuesday 6th—Morning

Hope Journey—"The Characters of the Nativity"
(volunteers needed for guides and character)

Sunday 11th

11.00am Service of Light

Saturday 17th

10.00am Ecumenical Carol Singing outside the Co-op & Premier Stores

Sunday 25th

9.30am Christmas celebration with Rev Alex Laing



Christmas preparations at Emmanuel



Christmas Tree Festival and Fair

Emmanuel Methodist URC, Ormskirk

Saturday December the 3rd

opening at 10.30am.

Church decorated with numerous Christmas Trees,

stalls including homemade cakes, crafts,

handmade cards, toys, fancy goods and many more.

Refreshments including lunches.

Entertainment, and of course Father Christmas for all the young at heart.

Emmanuel Methodist URC, Ormskirk

NATIVITY SERVICE

Sunday 18th December at 11.00 am

CAROL SERVICE

Sunday 18th December at 6.30 pm

CHRISTMAS EVE COMMUNION

Saturday 24th December at 4.00 pm

CHRISTMAS DAY FAMILY CELEBRATION

Sunday 25th December 11.00 am

NEW YEARS DAY SERVICE

Sunday 1st Dec at 11.00am

A short service led by Malcolm Abbott

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

Sunday 8th Jan at 4pm

With Rev Sue

Burscough Methodist Church

NATIVITY AND GIFT SERVICE

Sunday 11th December at 10.00 am

All age worship led by our own young people
Gifts Toys and cash donations for Derian House
Children's Hospice or Foodbank

CAROL SERVICE

Sunday 18th December 4.30 pm

CHRISTMAS EVE COMMUNION

Saturday 24th December 8.00 pm

A time of quiet reflection and prayer.

CHRISTMAS DAY FAMILY CELEBRATION

Sunday 25th December 10.30 am

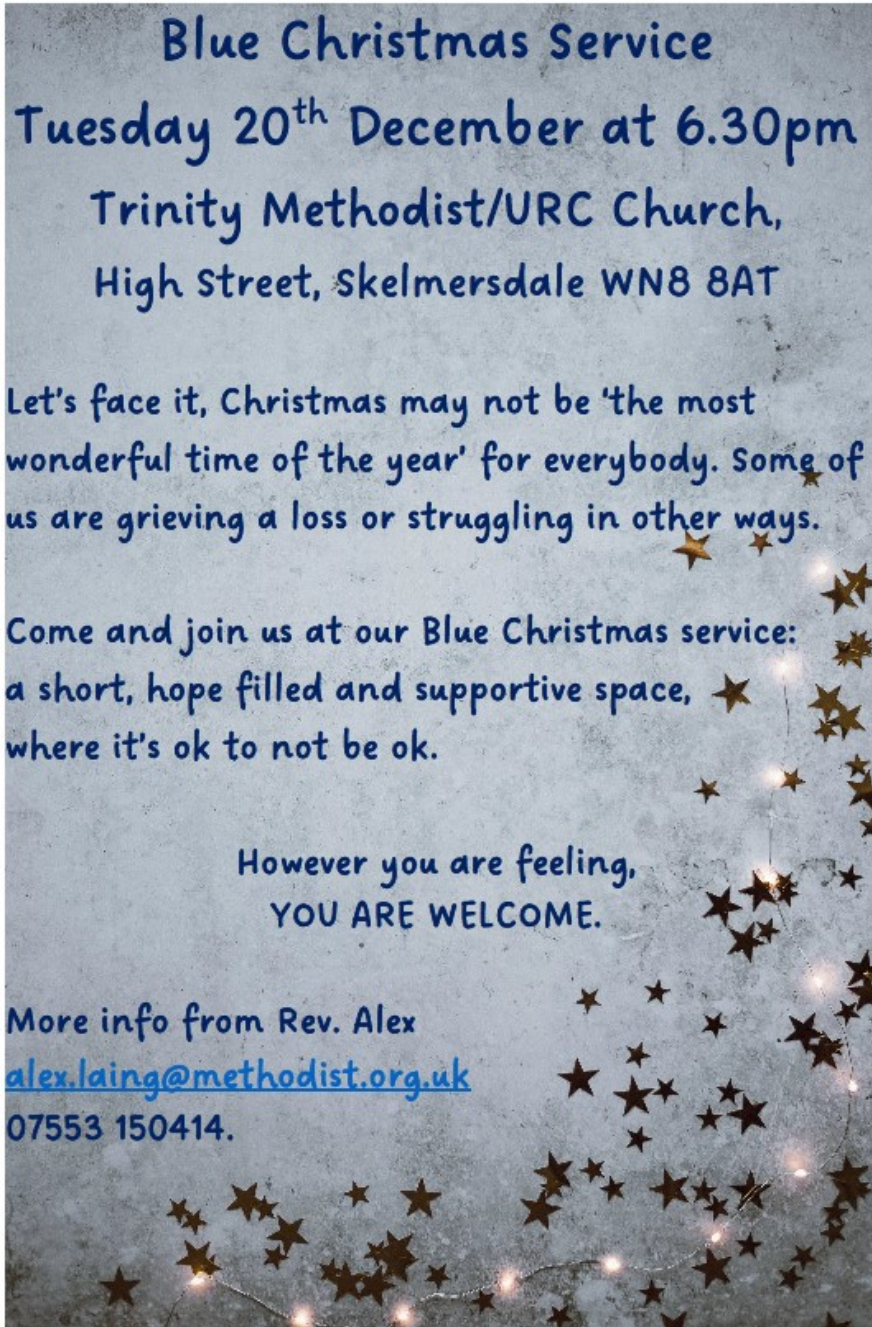
Celebrate the birth of Christ; children, please bring
along a present you have received.

NEW YEARS DAY SERVICE

Sunday 1st Dec at 10.00am

A short service led by Rev Michael





Trinity Methodist URC, Skelmersdale

CAROLS AND HOLY COMMUNION

Christmas Eve Saturday 24th December at midday

Lunchtime service of carols and Holy Communion followed by mince pies.

NEW YEAR'S EVE DAYTIME

Saturday 31st December 2.00 -4.00pm

Church will be open for prayer and conversation to see us into the new year.

CHURCH SERVICES

| | December | | | | January | |
|--|---|---|---|---|------------------------------------|---|
| | 4th | 11 th | 18 th | 25 th | 1st | 8th |
| Burscough Orrell Lane 10.00 | Malcolm Abbott | Nativity | o/a 4.30pm Carol S Michael Tindsley | 10.30 F Michael Tindsley | Michael Tindsley | o/a |
| Holmeswood Holmeswood Rd 10.30 HP, CMP, STF |  | o/a | Mere Brow 6.30pm "The Inn Crowd"  | Holmes | Tarleton 11am | Tarleton |
| Mere Brow Mere Brow Lane 10.30 MPC MHB | Holmeswood | o/a | Michael Tindsley Carol Service  | Holmes | Tarleton 11am | Tarleton |
| Holmes Park Lane 10.30 HP, MP, JP, | Holmeswood | Andrew Richardson | Mere Brow | 9.30 F Michael Tindsley  | Tarleton 11am | Tarleton |
| Tarleton Church Rd 10.30 HP, MP, | Holmeswood | David Allen | 2pm Michael Tindsley Carol Service | Holmes or Burscough | 11am Michael Tindsley |  Covenant |
| Mawdesley Gorse Lane 10.30 HP, MP, JP, NIV | o/a Family Service | Michael Tindsley | Alex Laing S | David Allen | o/a | Geoff Farthing |
| Croston Westhead Rd 10.30 HP, MP, STF, 6.30 | Geoff Farthing | Sue Guénault Nativity Sue Guénault Carol Service | Jonathan Richardson | 9.30 Sue Guénault | ----- | Sue Guénault Cov |
| Ormskirk Derby St 11.00 HP, CMP, StF 6.30 | Sue Guénault | Lorraine Howarth | Sue Guénault F Sue Guénault Carol Service | 11.00 Sue Guénault | Malcolm Abbott | o/a 4pm Sue Guénault Christingle |
| Trinity High Street 11.00 STF, GNB | Liam Woods Café Church | Alex Laing S | Geoff Farthing | Up Holland | ----- | o/a |
| Up Holland Alma Hill 11.00 STF LP | Alex Laing F Toy Service | Service of Light | Merle Farthing | 9.30 Alex Laing | Geoff Farthing | o/a |

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

Cov - Covenant Service
 o/a – Own Arrangement
 S – Holy Communion
 F – Family Service (all age)
 P – Parade Service

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