

Good News

Lancashire West Methodist Circuit

Prayer of the Day from

Methodist.org.uk

Today, Lord, I live in your Spirit,
You make life to shine.
As lungs take in air to sing
I walk filled in your Spirit,
The fruits of my hoping,
The fruits of my living.
Today, Lord, I live in your love –
love that will speak to others
With the sound of your grace,
Full of mercy and forgiveness,
Foundation of my faith,
The fruits of my living.

Deacon Gwynn Bamford,
supernumerary,
Bromsgrove and Redditch
Circuit



You, O LORD, keep my lamp burning; my God turns my darkness into light. Psalm 18:28

Father, there are days when we are lost and confused in the darkness around us. Remind us today that You are all good, all light, and all love. You are the source of all strength.



Do you have any allergies?' the staff member in the café asked me. 'I'm lactose intolerant,' I replied, 'I can't eat dairy.' 'And any actual allergies? Anything that could be life threatening?'

Back at home, I was reminded that I am allergic to labels. These descriptions that others – and ourselves – use to mark us out.

Now if you do have a food allergy, please do not think that I am making light of this.

But there is the real sense that labels can be life threatening. The long-term psychological damage resulting from these labels can prevent us from living the fullness of life that Jesus offers.

I'm talking about labels such as 'stupid', 'unlovable' and 'broken'. I was reminded

last week that the only label that God gives us is 'loved'. So how can we take this into our lives, when the world, and often ourselves, puts negative labels on us?

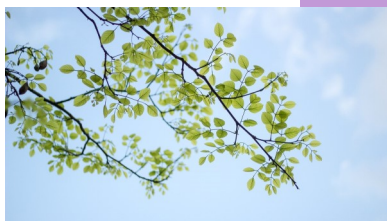
First of all, let's change our language. Let's try to catch ourselves when we hear our internal voice telling us we're a failure or not good enough. Let's pause and remind ourselves that we are loved.

And let's not use labels, because in doing so, we are continuing the pattern of excluding those we are labelling. When Jesus met the woman at Jacob's well, he didn't focus on the fact that she had been married five times and was currently cohabiting. He didn't label her as a divorcee or 'living in sin'. He offered her living water, to release her from the effect of labels.

Galatians chapter 5 tells us that we have been given gifts to help us to live well, ways of being that take us away from legalism and absolutism, and into God's heart for us. Such things as joy, patience, peace, kindness and gentleness. If we internalise these and make these who we are, and how we treat others, then we release ourselves from living with labels and judgements.

Cont. overleaf...

Deadline for articles to
include in the next edition
of Good News is
Monday 29th May



Here is the Message version of the passage:

Galatians 5:22-24

22-23 But what happens when we live God's way? He brings gifts into our lives, much the same way that fruit appears in an orchard—things like affection for others, exuberance about life, serenity. We develop a willingness to stick with things, a sense of compassion in the heart, and a conviction that a basic holiness permeates things and people. We find ourselves involved in loyal commitments, not needing to force our way in life, able to marshal and direct our energies wisely.

23-24 Legalism is helpless in bringing this about; it only gets in the way. Among those who belong to Christ, everything connected with getting our own way and mindlessly responding to what everyone else calls necessities is killed off for good—crucified.

Rev Alex



Easter Prayer written by the Revd Michaela Youngson

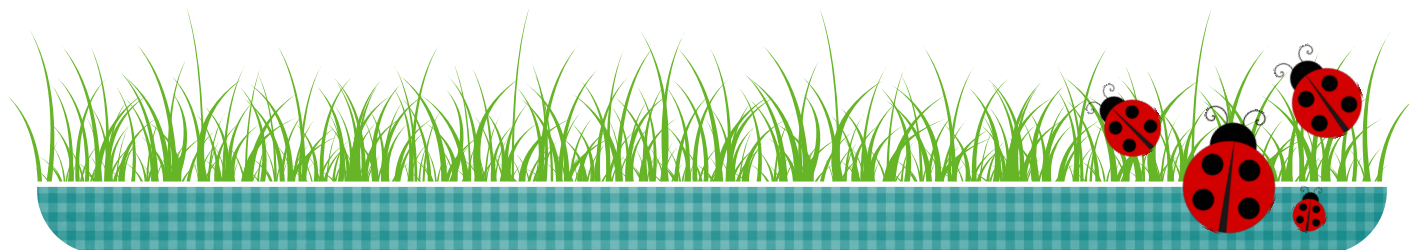
*When everything was dark
and it seemed that the sun would never
shine again,
your love broke through.*

*Your love was too strong,
too wide,
too deep
for death to hold.*

*The sparks cast by your love
dance and spread
and burst forth
with resurrection light.*

*Gracious God,
We praise you for the light of new life
made possible through Jesus.
We praise you for the light of new life
that shone on the first witnesses of
resurrection.
We praise you for the light of new life
that continues to shine in our hearts
today.*

*We pray that the Easter light of life, hope
and joy,
will live in us each day;
and that we will be bearers of that light
into the lives of others.
Amen.*



Easter worship at Trinity MC/URC

2nd April 11am - Palm Sunday worship, followed by a 'bring and share' lunch.

6th April 6pm - Maundy Thursday worship, a time of sharing and serving each other as we remember the Last Supper that Jesus had with his friends. We will have a meal of scones and hot drinks as part of this.

8th April 10am - Come and bring flowers to decorate the empty cross. Bacon butties and hot drinks will be available.

9th Sunday - Easter Sunday worship. Breakfast is at **9am**, followed by our Easter Sunday service with Holy Communion at **9.30am**.

Everyone is very welcome, all faiths and none.

Easter worship at Emmanuel MC/URC

2nd April 11am—Palm Sunday service with Rev Geoffrey Farthing

6th April 7.30pm—Maundy Thursday Holy Communion Service at Ormskirk Parish Church led by Rev Pauline Bicknall.

7th April 11.00am—Good Friday Meditation – a short service of music, poetry and readings, led by Rev Sue and Mark Guénault.

This is followed by an

invitation to join our Ecumenical partners at the **Ormskirk Clock Tower** at 12.00pm.

9th April 11.00am—Easter Sunday All Age service and Holy Communion with Rev Sue Guénault.

Welcome to Worship at Burscough

2nd April 10.00am—PALM SUNDAY

Mrs. Merle Farthing. Palm Crosses will be distributed.

6th April 7. 00pm—MAUNDY THURSDAY

sharing a light meal and Holy Communion

(Please sign the list in the church foyer for catering purposes)

7th April 10.30am - GOOD FRIDAY

Reflections on the cross

9th April (9.45am) - EASTER SUNDAY

All Age Worship Revd. Michael Tindsley

Celebrating the Risen Lord Jesus Christ

Please bring a flower to decorate the empty cross.

Croston Methodist

2nd April 10.00am—Croston folk are invited to meet at the Parish Church at **10.00am** for a Palm Sunday walk around the Millennium Field, following a donkey. Then there is an All Age service at the **Methodist Chapel at 10.30am** led by Rev Sue Guénault (sadly, no donkey!)

9th April 9.30am—Easter Sunday Worship with Holy Communion led by Rev Sue Guénault

Please see the last page of this edition for all Easter Sunday services around the circuit.



Visit to Sri Lanka February 2023

In February I returned to Sri Lanka, my first favourite island after Britain! No voluntary work this year but visiting friends and projects that I have been involved with, and looking to setting up a new one.

By chance I was able to attend three significant events. The first organised by the World Methodist Council when the 2022 World Methodist Peace Award was made to Rev. Ebenezer Joseph, President of the Methodist Church Sri Lanka. This was in recognition of the work he has undertaken over many years to build peace and reconciliation, both during and since the civil war. The second was the opening of the South East Asia Methodist Conference-a lively and colourful occasion and thirdly the ordination of three of my former students at the Anglican Cathedral in Colombo.



The main event for me was the laying of the foundation stone (Literally) for the community hall at Bibile to which Emmanuel Church has made a significant donation. A joyous occasion!



I visited a remote village in the north to meet the children who have benefited from a grant from MWiB.





Visit to Sri Lanka February 2023

And then an explorative visit to a group of Tamil war widows at Pothuvil, on the south east coast to learn how they could benefit from help .



A hectic three weeks, a wonderful opportunity to share with Christians in an Asian country!

As before, I was moved by the depth of faith of all the Christians I met with their zeal and enthusiasm for their work and activities. I thank God that I have the opportunity to meet and learn from these people.

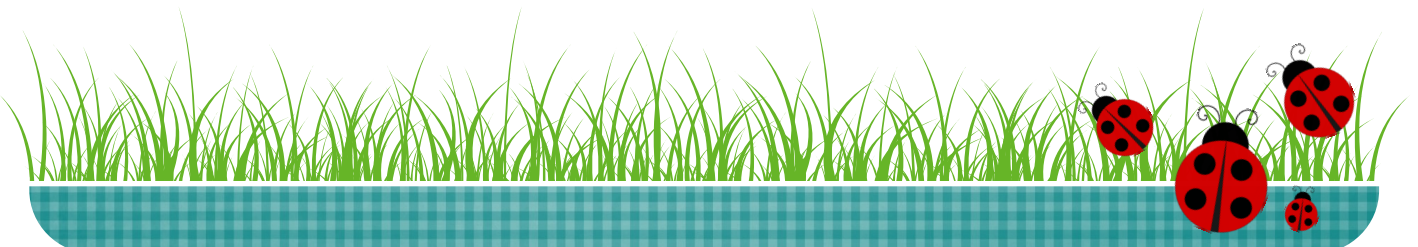
Anne Baldwin

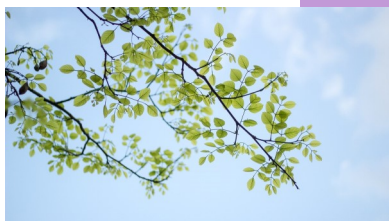
Cliff Festival 2023

Cliff Festival 2023 runs from 26-29 May at Cliff College in Derbyshire. Expect morning and evening worship and Bible teaching, seminars, games and activities for people of all ages, opportunities to be reenergised and resourced for mission – and all in the stunning surrounds of the Peak District. Come for the day or bring your tent and come for the weekend.

Weekend tickets start from £42 – and, did we mention, entry is free for under-18s?

Come and encounter the Spirit of God at Cliff Festival – visit www.cliffcollege.ac.uk/cliff-festival to find out more and book now.





Trinity Methodist Church, Croston

Making a Difference

A key part of our Church Growth Plan at Croston is to develop stronger partnership arrangements with Trinity and St Michael's CE Methodist Primary school.

Claire Procter the Headteacher of the school writes, *'Revd Sue Guénault is an integral part of the life of our school. Her Christian mission permeates every aspect of our work. Her role in school extends much further than simply leading worship. She is not only involved in leading strategic decisions regarding our Christian distinctiveness and the training of staff, but she actively supports staff and pupils in the development of their spirituality and relationship with God.*

Her work engages and enthuses pupils and staff, and her inclusive approach allows them to be their authentic selves. Over the last two years Revd. Sue has worked hard to ensure that the ecumenical heritage of our school is palpable and clear to all.

Her work with the school's ethos group and Revd Michael Woods Vicar of St Michael and All Angels Parish Church, Croston now extends to include a termly, joint community worship between school, churches, and our village community.

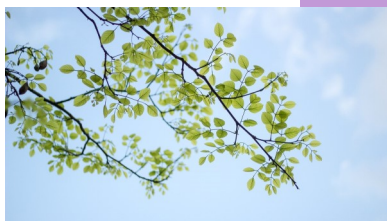
The impact of Revd Sue's school ecumenical work was most notable at this year's Harvest celebration; attendance of our school families at the Harvest service was the highest in the history of our school. It is a pleasure working alongside Revd. Sue. Her passion and commitment are infectious, and I look forward to continuing our mutual drive to ensure that all pupils and families in our community experience the warmth and love of our Christian faith.'

The school is currently waiting for a SIAMS Inspection. All Church of England dioceses and the Methodist Church use the Church of England Education Office's framework for the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS). The SIAMS inspection focuses on the impact of the school's Christian vision on pupils and adults.

Revd Sue and Revd Michael Woods are proving to be an exceptional ecumenical team and their Christian endeavours are making a difference in the school. Their work is 'bearing fruit' in the school and in the community.

Croston Leadership Team.





Events at Tarleton Methodist Church

**EASTER SERVICES
AT
TARLETON METHODIST**

GOOD FRIDAY 9.30 a.m.
Rev. Michael Tindsley

EASTER SUNDAY 11.00 a.m.
Rev. Michael Tindsley
INCLUDING DRESSING OF THE CROSS

ALL WELCOME

TARLETON METHODIST CHURCH

Saturday 15th April
10-00 a.m. - 12.00 Noon

DON'T MISS THE 

**GRAND
CLEARANCE SALE**

Tarleton Methodist Church

Plant Sale
SATURDAY 15th May
2.00 - 4.00

**Order your plants
and collect.**
(Order Form available soon)

will be sent to church steward





Burscough Methodist Church

Here is the display poster made by Burscough Methodist Village Primary children for World Day of Prayer, a beautiful display with lots of work done by them all.

Although all 3 churches from Burscough Village take part in the joint WDP service, our own children are the only school that take part in the children's activities, and that is in part thanks to the commitment of their Headteacher Mrs Tyrer



The secrets out as Turbo Timmo strikes again.

His next charity event has been revealed!

This time he sets off on the 24th of June to do a 250 mile trip as he attempts B2B - Bristol to Burscough on his trusty mobility scooter, all in aid of The Stroke Association UK and Burscough Methodist Church Community Hall Refurbishment Project. What a man.

Please take a look at his website

<http://turbotimmo.co.uk> and show your support. Thank you

Circuit Family & Schools' Worker News

Hello everyone,

Another update from me!

In January and February, I had an amazing time working with the children and staff in five primary schools across our circuit (Trinity St Michael's, Croston; Holmeswood; Burscough Bridge; Ormskirk CofE; & Mawdesley St Peters). These schools had taken up my offer of a full day's art workshop for their whole school on the theme of God's Love....

We began the day with collective worship led by myself; with songs, their school prayer, a story about The Three Trees (in which God's Love changes everything), and looking at some artwork images on the theme. I had differentiated these for each age group, and found images of art that used different techniques and media.

After discussing the different images and explaining the task for the day, the children returned to their classrooms to start thinking of their ideas. I had asked them to reflect on what God's Love meant to them and to create their own piece of art based on this - so, not a class full of identical pictures....but their very own individual piece. In feedback from some of the staff, they'd thought this almost impossible or at least a daunting task. However, as you'll see from the 'Art Gallery', they are all most certainly very different.



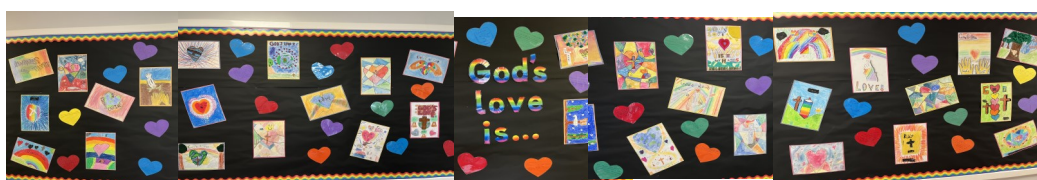
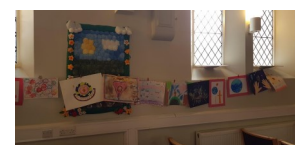
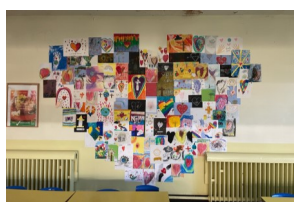
The children sketched out their ideas, drafted their chosen image, and then created this on either A3 or A4 paper using a choice of paint, collage, oil pastels, charcoal or soft pastels. Some children were using a certain media for the first time...some children were reluctant artists at the start, feeling that they didn't have a talent for it and wouldn't be able to produce anything great. The change in these children especially was wonderful to see: a sense of achievement, amazement, self-belief, pride...and smiles so wide!God's Love certainly had changed everything!





Across the five schools, around 750 children took part in the God's Love Art Day with fabulous feedback from the schools. I've received photographs of the artwork displayed in many of the schools, some have also displayed a selection in their local church and shown the children's artwork to parents and to governors.

So the message of God's Love has been spread to many!



CHURCH SERVICES

	April					May	
	2 nd Palm Sunday	9 th Easter	16 th	23 rd	30 th	7 th	14 th
Burscough Orrell Lane 10.00 HP, CMP, STF, NIV	Merle Farthing	Michael Tindsley F S 9.45	Andrew Richardson	Michael Tindsley	Jonathan Richardson	o/a	JCA
Holmeswood Holmeswood Rd 10.30 HP, CMP, STF	Mere Brow	Tarleton Choir 6.30	o/a	Liam Woods	Mere Brow	Holmes	Michael Tindsley
Mere Brow Mere Brow Lane 10.30 MPC MHB		Tarleton	Paul Blackham	Holmeswood	Michael Tindsley S	Holmes	LA Ladies Day
Holmes Park Lane 10.30 HP, MP, JP	Mere Brow	Tarleton	o/a	Anne Wallbank	Mere Brow		Janet Walton
Tarleton Church Rd 10.30 HP, MP,	Mere Brow	 11am S	Malcolm Abbott	David Allen	Mere Brow	Holmes	o/a
Mawdesley Gorse Lane 10.30 HP, MP, JP, NIV	o/a	Geoff Farthing S	Alex Laing	Croston	o/a	o/a	Alex Laing
Croston Westhead Rd 10.30 HP, MP, STF	Sue Guénault F Ecumenical	9.30 Sue Guénault S	o/a	Merle Farthing	Geoff Farthing S	o/a	Liam Woods
Ormskirk Derby St 11.00 HP, CMP, STF	Geoff Farthing	Sue Guénault S	Sue Guénault P	Janet Walton	Malcolm Abbott	o/a	Geoff Farthing S
Trinity High Street 11.00 STF, GNB	Alex Laing S	9.30 Alex Laing Breakfast +S	Geoff Farthing	Sheryl Anderson	Alex Laing S	Café Church o/a	Lorraine Howarth
Up Holland Alma Hill 11.00 STF LP	Lorraine Howarth	Alex Laing S	o/a	Paul Givens	Paul Lock	Alex Laing	Beacon Churches
MP –Mission Praise Combined LP – Let's Praise F – Family Service [All Age] o/a - Own Arrangement HP – Hymns and Psalms CMP – Complete Mission Praise JCA – Junior Church Anniversary S - Holy Communion JP – Junior Praise STF - Singing the Faith P – Parade Service							

Revd Michael Tindsley

01704 620053

michael.tindsley@methodist.org.uk

Revd Alex Laing

07553150414

alex.laing@methodist.org.uk

Revd Sue Guénault

07468 518260

rev.sue@guenault.co.uk

Jayne Chard

Circuit Administrator

Lancashire West Methodist Circuit
Office

01695 578990

office@lancashirewest.org.uk