

Good News

Lancashire West Methodist Circuit

Prayer of the Day from

Methodist.org.uk

Let our souls rejoice in
your power, O God, and
our hearts in your love.
As our mouths are filled
with your praise, may our
lives testify to your grace.

Sarah Crosby, Methodist
Preacher (1729–1804)



Be kind to one another, tender hearted,
forgiving one another as God in Christ
forgave you. Ephesians 4:32.

LORD, we claim that we believe in You but
far too often we don't act like You at all.
Please help us to allow the Holy Spirit to
work in our hearts and minds and please
forgive us when we grieve You by our lack of
love.

Eurovision!



With Eurovision taking place so close to
home this year, Carrie and I decided to
bring some Methodist glitter to the
occasion by volunteering for the Imagine
Peace team.

This was an ecumenical team who were
based in various Liverpool locations, lead-
ing prayer walks, vigils, and an
ecumenical service at the Metropolitan
Cathedral. We also took part in a podcast
and staffed the touring dry pub 'Hope and
Anchor'.

It was a joy to wander the city and get
talking to so many diverse people.
Mission is meeting people where they are
and chatting about what is important to

them, and so we spent time with the
police, paramedics, council caretakers,
as well as Eurovision volunteers and
tourists. We encouraged them to see
where God was during Eurovision, and
to continue praying for Ukraine.

The buzz in Liverpool was palpable. It
felt a safe, joyful time of coming together
to celebrate national pride and
international peace. Indeed, the logo on
our 'uniform' (purple hoodies) spoke of
imagining peace and of noticing God.

If you have not been to Strawberry Field,
it is worth a visit. The prayer garden,
where our Hope and Anchor tepee was
situated, is a beautiful, well created

Deadline for articles to
include in the next edition

of Good News is

Monday 31st July

Cont. overleaf...

Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award Congratulations

garden, which speaks of hope, faith and love.



I hope you can see from our photographs that Eurovision was such a positive time. It's a cliché, but I feel enriched by the encounters with people and the conversations shared. Human beings are diverse, and Eurovision celebrates that diversity. And when we remember that every person is made in the image of God, that diversity becomes glorious!

Rev. Alex



A little piece of Good News from me

One weekend in May, my daughter Erin & I were invited to Buckingham Palace Gardens (along with thousands of others) to celebrate her achievement of gaining her Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award.

It was a lovely day, the brass bands were playing, the guest speakers were on form. Plus, we enjoyed Earl Grey tea and royal cupcakes. We were very excited at the opportunity to see and meet with Prince Edward, who seems a lovely person.

Most importantly though, it was an opportunity to let Erin know how proud of her, everyone is. Simon, her Dad, knew she was interested in gaining her Gold D of E award. Sadly, he died before she even began. Erin kept going, with the support of those around her and even though she had to halt her progress when the lockdown occurred, she picked it back up and finished it.

We urge any young person interested in the scheme to have a go. It's brilliant for learning and enrichment (and you may get invited to Buckingham Palace!)

Jayne Chard
(Burscough Methodist)





Mamie Martin Fundraising Update

Mercy Sibande, MMF's Malawi Country Director, is on a mini-tour of supporters in the UK. Last weekend she was in Lancashire where a group of churches supports six MMF girls in Karonga, in the far north of Malawi.

The Lancashire West Methodist 'Circuit' of 10 churches held an event at Up Holland on Sunday 21st May. It was open to visitors and turned into a fantastic gathering of MMF supporters. Long-standing MMF supporter, Emyln Evans, travelled 97 miles each way to attend with his wife, Anne. Our Manchester Marathon runners, Phil and Hannah, came 75 miles to meet Mercy. The event made them want to move back to Malawi, where they lived for many years



Mercy with Jenny Ashcroft



Mercy with Rev Alex Laing

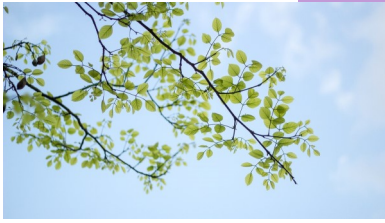
We were hosted by the Up Holland members, led by Linda Jones. We were the first people to use their new garden and the lovely weather was just right for it. The formal part of the event was led by the Rev Alex Laing. Newly-elected Cllr Sam Riches from Lancaster attended and became our photographer. Thanks Sam! The event was filmed by Derek Ashcroft for sharing with those supporters who were unable to attend. We were honoured to be joined by Rev Michael Tindsley, the Circuit Superintendent.

This MMF-Lancashire West partnership is greatly valued by us and by St Mary's Secondary School, Karonga. This is one of the best schools in Malawi and the pastoral care of the girls is second-to-none. We were glad to be able to share photos and videos of each of the six girls. Mercy told their stories and answered questions. Her presence in this warm and generous community was much appreciated, as evidenced by this feedback comment,

"How well she speaks and I felt how well she understands the girls. You must feel so pleased and thankful that all the girls are in such great hands. She is an absolute asset to the work of MMF." [Lancashire West supporter]

With thanks to Moira Dunworth, administrator and friend of Mamie Martin Fund, who wrote this blog. You can read it, complete with additional photographs here

<https://mamiemartin.org/wide-gathering-of-supporters-in-lancashire/>



Term Report for Lancashire West Girls, Malawi

2022/ 2023 TERM 2 LANCASHIRE WEST REPORT (January to March 2023)



INTRODUCTION

St Mary's Girls Secondary School was visited on the 8th of February 2023. Started off from Mzuzu the same morning and reached Karonga at lunch hour.

OBJECTIVES

To check on the beneficiaries if they all have reported to school

To distribute R2L Fund & reusable sanitary wear to girls

AOB

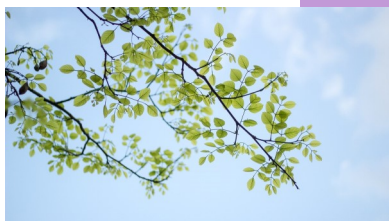
Checking if all the girls had reported for school this term.

All the girls were at school this term, as usual they just had some basic needs which were provided to them through the Ready to Learn Fund (R2L). Most girls this term had been sick at school from different ailments, but all the Lancashire girls were in perfect health apart from Lucia Mbukwa who was complaining of a small headache and was advised to seek medical help because it was feared that it might be malaria.

Distributing R2L fund and the reusable sanitary wear to the girls

As a country Malawi is still experiencing financial hardships in different areas of people's lives especially at the village level, hence a rise in the amounts used to help the girls in transport money to and from school, some basic needs such as soap, toothpaste, body lotion, sugar for their tea and porridge, school stationery etc.

Reusable sanitary wear was distributed this term since last time it was given late in term two due to other reasons. All the girls were very happy with the support of the sanitary wear.



Term Report for Lancashire West Girls, Malawi

Patricia Mkubwa needed bathing and washing soap, sugar, notebooks, and pens, she was given 8,000 Malawi Kwacha. Lucia Mbukwa received 10,000 Malawi Kwacha for sugar, soap, body lotion, pens, and notebooks. Stella Mwatagha had 20,000 Malawi Kwacha for her to buy scientific calculator, sugar, toothpaste, soap, body lotions and notebooks. Mickdonna Chizumila received 30,000 Malawi Kwacha which she used for transport coming to school (16,000 MK), soap, body lotion, toothpaste, sugar, pens, and notebooks.

AOB

It should be noted that the notebooks were bought with money from R2L Fund and not from the money that was given to the girls.

Conclusion

All the visits were done successfully, the girls were excited to see the Director at the schools for the visit as is usually the case. We all are very grateful for the support that Lancashire West sends to the girls and the Director for the work to go on smoothly. A huge thank you to all the donors who make this happen, we do not take it for granted, God bless you all who have the passion to see this Malawian girl complete her secondary education.

Compiled by: Mercy Sibande (MMF Director)

16 April 2023

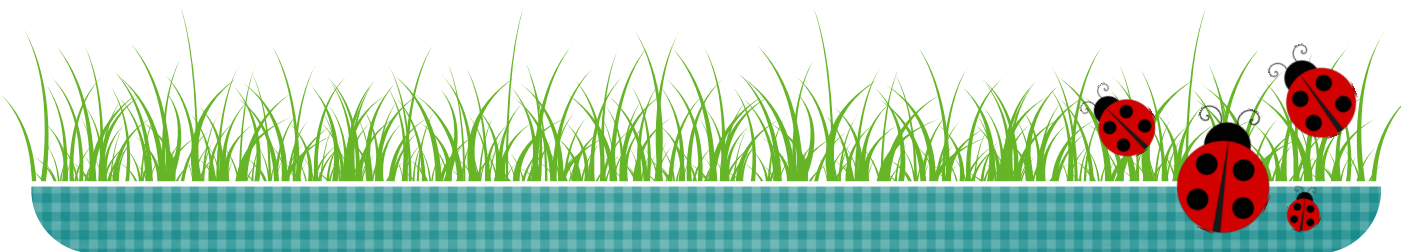
As you can see from the report, the money raised by the Lancashire West Methodist Circuit is used for and makes a direct difference to 6 x young girl's lives.

Can you help? If you wish to make a difference, you can easily give here

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/LancashireWest>

Or see your church steward.

We urge you to visit the page as there is a video on there, recorded especially for Lancashire West Methodist Circuit by Mariot Dallas, granddaughter of Mamie Martin. In it she explains the history of the MMF fund and how our donations are life changing.



We are very proud that such a small school has been part of the International MAST schools choir , please see the link below to watch the video – Well done to all the children and staff, a wonderful achievement.

to read the May Press Release and watch the Methodist Schools Conference song, following the successful conclusion of the Methodist Education International Conference.

Also, they had a fantastic day celebrating the Coronation of King Charles – a lunch was organised by the hard working staff and a wonderful time was had by all – hopefully these memories will stay with our children to remember the special day when they all received a Coronation Medal given by the Council.

Coronation Celebrations

King's Coronation 2023



All pupils received a medal from Burscough Town Council and we had a street party to celebrate.





Easter at Up Holland Methodist Church

Easter Sunday seems a long time ago, but we continue to be Easter people. So it feels good to look back to the week before Holy Week, to the Easter experience offered by Up Holland Methodist Church.

Our aim was to bring the Easter story to life for pupils in our local primary schools, and we invited the schools that did not have any church affiliation. It was a morning of crafts, stories, a video and even a dance. Activities such as planting seeds, creating leaf prayers and comparing crosses from around the world, enabled the pupils to delve into the resurrection and its meaning.

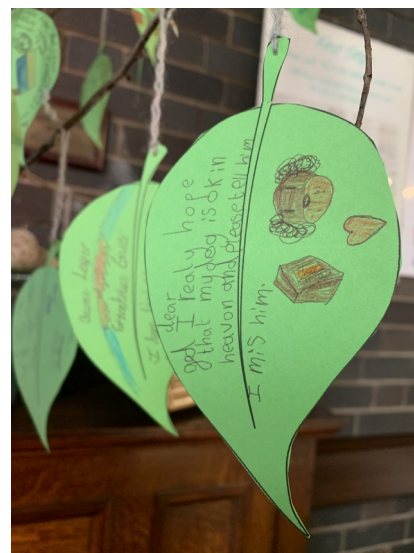
One school responded:

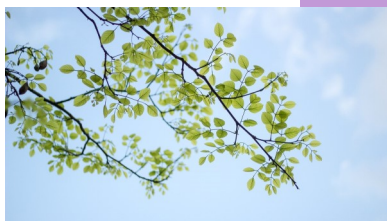
'I just wanted to say a huge thank you to you and your team. Our Year 5 and 6 children had a wonderful time today ... We found it to be a great experience. The activities were fun and interesting and the children enjoyed being able to discuss and ask questions.'

'Thank you so much. I really appreciate you including us and I am super grateful for the time you and your team gave up to benefit our children.' It is lovely to receive such feedback.

My thanks go to the staff and pupils of the two schools, for their engagement and their fantastic listening and questioning skills. The volunteers from UHMC were very generous in their time and their sharing of their faith: thank you. And thank you to the pupils for teaching us a thing or two about Jesus as well 😊

Rev. Alex





Events around the Circuit

MAWDESLEY METHODIST CHURCH

Welcomes you to

OPEN DOORS

Our Doors are Open

Tuesday

6th Jun & 4th July

9.30 am – 12.00 midday



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

Dog friendly.

Refreshments provided in the school room.

Play **board games**.

Bring your own **crafts**.

Book Exchange.

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

Everyone Welcome.

PARKSIDE COLLIERY MALE VOICE CHOIR



'SUMMER CONCERT'!

JUNE 17TH

7.30PM

CROSTON METHODIST CHURCH



Conductor: Paul Witkiewicz

Piano Accompanist: Rachel Dixon

Tickets £7

[under 12 free]

...Raffle & Refreshments...

Tickets available from Methodist church; Rachel Dixon @ The Piano Pod,
or pay on the door

"SONGS OF PRAISE"

JUNE 18TH

10.30am

...FAMILY SERVICE...















Croston Methodist Church

A service with lots of singing!
Hymns & songs---old & new!
All chosen by our church community!

Everyone is welcome to come along & join us!

Refreshments afterwards!

CHURCH SERVICES

	June				July				
	4 th	11 th	18 th	25 th	2 nd	9 th	16 th	23 rd	30 th
Burscough Orrell Lane 10.00 HP, CMP,	o/a	Michael Tindsley FS S	David Allen	Geoff Farthing	o/a	Lorraine Howarth FS	Michael Tindsley S	o/a	Merle Farthing
Holmeswood Holmeswood Rd 10.30 HP, CMP, STF	 Michael Tindsley	o/a	Holmes	o/a	 Holmes	o/a	 Tarleton Celebration Service 6.30	Mere Brow	Michael Tindsley
Mere Brow Mere Brow Lane 10.30 MPC MHB	 Holmeswood	o/a	Walking Day	Anne Wallbank	 Holmes	Emma Birkbeck	 Tarleton	Michael Tindsley S	Holmeswood
Holmes Park Lane 10.30 HP, MP, JP	 Holmeswood	Shirley Potts	Geoff Farthing S	Andrew Richardson	 Michael Tindsley	Cliff Hill	 Tarleton	Anne Wallbank	Janet Walton
Tarleton Church Rd 10.30 HP, MP,	 Holmeswood	Michael Tindsley S 11am	Holmes	o/a	 Holmes	Liam Woods	 Bernard Cocker International Aid Trust	Mere Brow	o/a
Ormskirk Derby St 11.00 HP, CMP, STF	Liam Woods	o/a	Michael Tindsley S	Merle Farthing	o/a	Malcolm Abbott	o/a	David Allen	Sue Guénault S
Croston Westhead Rd 10.30 HP, MP, STF	Mawdesley	Malcolm Abbott	o/a	Michael Tindsley S	Mawdesley	o/a	Janet Maggs	Mawdesley	Geoff Farthing
Mawdesley Gorse Ln 10.30 HP, MP, JP, NIV	o/a	Alex Laing	o/a	Alex Laing S	o/a	Tent Service	Alex Laing	Janet Walton	Croston
Trinity High St 11.00 STF, GNB	Alex Laing S	Janet Walton	o/a	Carrie Middleton	Mary Foley	o/a	Michael Tindsley	o/a	Alex Laing S
Up Holland Alma Hill 11.00 STF LP	Beacon Churches	Lorraine Howarth	Alex Laing	Malcolm Abbot	Alex Laing S	Beacon Churches	Geoff Farthing	Alex Laing	Beacon Churches

MP – Mission Praise Combined CMP – Complete Mission Praise HP – Hymns and Psalms Singing the Faith
JP – Junior Praise LP – Let's Praise
S – Holy Communion O/A – Own Arrangement F – Family Service [All Age]

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Rev Sue is currently on Sabbatical

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