

Prayer of the Day from Methodist.org.uk

Love the Lord your God...
Lord, this is easy – of course I love you!
(easy to say, not so easy to do with ALL my heart, soul, strength and mind)
Teach me to love you with ALL that I am.

Love your neighbour...
Lord, this too is easy (depending which neighbour I have in mind)
Teach me to love ALL my neighbours with ALL that I am.

...as yourself.
Lord, sometimes this feels impossible
(for I do not always believe that I am loveable: I see the things in me that are hidden from others)
Teach me to accept your love, and set me free so that together our love may heal your world.

Amen.

Rachel Deigh, presbyter and mission partner, Sierra Leone



We walk by faith, not by sight.
2 Corinthians 5:7.

Oh, LORD, help us today, we pray, for we are foolish sheep, and so often we stray from our Shepherd. Lead us back to YOUR path and give us the strength to continue in YOUR presence all day long.

All Change In The Circuit

Dear Friends,

Over the past two years the Churches in the northern part of the Circuit – Holmeswood, Holmes, Mere Brow and Tarleton – have been looking at how best they can work together in the future.

The process began with the involvement of John Wareham and Abbi Parr from TCC [Transforming Churches and Communities] who guided each Church through the process of reflecting on their life and future possibilities.

Since September last year, the Churches have been joining together on the first Sunday of the month for “Join4Worship”, moving around each of the Chapel buildings as well as holding an All Age Nativity in Holmeswood School Hall.

This was initially for a trial period of four months but this coming together proved to be so popular that everyone wished to continue. Alongside Worship, friendships and trust grew and over the past six months the Churches have been considering their own individual futures, and looking at the possibility of joining together as one Church Council.

With three Chapels within a small area it was clear to everyone that this was not sustainable into the future, with Holmes and Holmeswood in particular having issues around accessibility.

Whilst we have not formally gone through the process of asking permission to Cease to Meet at Holmeswood and Holmes, the Churches have decided that from the 1st September they will become one Church to be known as “Mere Brow and Tarleton Methodist Church” and this will eventually become one Church on two sites. Services will continue to be planned at Holmes until the Harvest Services there on October 8th, when friends from the Circuit will be invited to join them for an evening Circuit Service.

There will be two joint services each month, on the first and third Sundays and in both buildings on the second, fourth and fifth.

Part of the developing Mission Plan for the new Church is to seek to increase Community involvement with the Tarleton building, and we are delighted that in September Compassion Acts, the

Deadline for articles to include in the next edition

of Good News is
Monday 28th August

Cont. overleaf...



Southport based Charity who work the Skelmersdale and District Foodbank, will be running a Food Pantry and from the 20th September a Memory Loss Singing and Social Group [Dementia Choir and Café] will be running in the Hall from 11am - 12.30 each Wednesday.

Further down the line the possibility of building a new “Eco” Church/Community Space on the land at Sutton Lane, Tarleton, is being looked at.

All at “Mere Brow and Tarleton Methodist Church” would appreciate the prayers of the Circuit as we move forward together in this new venture.

Rev Michael

And a message from Joan, a steward from Mere Brow & Tarleton Methodist Church

At the end of August 2023 and again at the end of September we must remember and give thanks for the many generations of determined and hard working people who gave their time and worshipped at Holmeswood and at Holmes Methodist Chapels

Since the early 19th Century, this dedication and commitment has ensured that every Sunday the Christian message of light and hope for a dark world was preached from the pulpit of these beautiful little village chapels

Harvest Festivals and Harvest Suppers and Sales - Sunday School Anniversaries & Trips Walking Days - Sports Days - Garden Parties- so many happy memories of sharing together in the life of a Village chapel!

At the beginning of September 2023- 4 Methodist Chapels will unite and become one NEW CHURCH - “Mere Brow & Tarleton Methodist Church” - at Mere Brow Chapel and Tarleton Chapel

We face the future knowing God’s promise of long long ago -

“For I know I have plans for you,” declares the Lord, “Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, Plans to give you HOPE and a FUTURE “

We go forward together - putting our trust in Him who loves us and knows each one of us by name! Alleluia !!



Holmeswood Methodist



Holmes Methodist



Food Pantry West Lancs Villages: Tarleton

Compassion Acts, working closely with local churches and Hesketh Banks & Tarleton Helpers, are pleased to be expanding our Food Pantry provision with a new Pantry opening in Tarleton this autumn.

Our Food Pantries support people in the local community. They offer a personal shopping experience where someone can identify their own preferences and choices of food. Store cupboard products of up to £20 in value are chosen in return for the weekly £5 membership fee along with access to fresh and frozen produce.

In addition, we offer services to support the personal growth, financial wellbeing and overall mental wellbeing of those attending. These include the chance to socialise and chat whilst waiting to shop, access to Welfare and Benefits Advice and a developing program of social activities.

Our West Lancs Villages Pantry (Banks) has been open since December 2020 and has, to date, supported 1,481 subsidised shops. It currently has 40 members attending on a regular basis. We also have four other Pantries: one in Formby and three in Southport.

In order to develop this new provision, we are looking for volunteers and there are a number of different volunteering roles including:-

- Supporting at a pantry session: making and serving hot drinks, chatting with those attending, helping in the shopping area or overseeing the register and payments.

- Collecting food donations from local stores.

- Restocking the shopping area in advance of the next session.

- Promoting and sharing about the service.

Shadowing existing pantry teams and training would be required.

If you would be interested in any of these roles, or discussing how you could support the Tarleton Food Pantry, please contact Compassion Acts (office@compassionacts.uk / 01704 264505) and a member of the team would be happy to chat it through with you.

Methodist Home for the Aged have launched an exciting new app.

Click the following link <https://active.mha.org.uk/>

The image shows a screenshot of the MHA Active app website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the MHA Active logo, links for 'Download', 'About', 'Contact', and 'FAQ's', and a note 'Brought to you by MHA'. The main content area features the headline 'Helping to keep your mind and body active.' followed by the subtext 'Simply download, sign up and join in...'. Below this, there are two buttons: 'Join for free via web browser' and 'Or download for free via the App Store or Google Play'. At the bottom, there are logos for the 'App Store' and 'Google Play'. On the right side, there is a photograph of a hand holding a smartphone displaying the app's 'Activities' screen. The app interface shows a grid of activity options: 'Arts & Crafts', 'Baking & Cooking', 'Green Care', 'Yoga', 'Dementia Friendly', and 'Exercise & Meditation'.

Asland Pilgrim Ways

Free pilgrimage event

Sunday 10th September 2023

Start: Tarleton Holy Trinity Church, Church Road, Tarleton PR4 6UW

Parking: Public carpark diagonally opposite Tarleton Holy Trinity Church.

You are invited to pick up route leaflets from **Tarleton Holy Trinity Church** and go on a self-guided pilgrimage, pausing for mediation along the way.

Churches on the route will be open between 2pm and 4pm

Tarleton Holy Trinity Church

Tarleton St Mary's Church (Old Church)

Tarleton Methodist Church

Our Lady Help of Christians Church

Hesketh Lane Church

All routes are on metalled paths, but some may be narrow or uneven in places. The following churches have accessible toilets: Tarleton Holy Trinity Church, Our Lady Help of Christians Church, Hesketh Lane Church. All churches can be accessed without steps.



Route leaflets can also be downloaded from our webpage:

<https://lancashirewest.org.uk/aslandpilgrimways/>

Find us on Facebook:

Asland Pilgrim Ways

'follow' and 'like' our page to be kept up to date about events and routes.

Trinity Methodist Church—Croston

'Fruits of the Vine'

As noted in the March 2023 Good News article, 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.

The article also highlighted the potent work of Revd Sue and Revd Michael Woods.



"They 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."

Claire Procter the Headteacher of the school wrote, *"Revd Sue Guenault is an integral part of the life of our school. Her Christian mission permeates every aspect of our work."*

The school was inspected on the 4th June. 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 focused on the impact of the school's Christian vision on pupils and adults.

The Report recorded three headline judgements:

Overall grade - Excellent

The impact of Collective Worship - Excellent

The effectiveness of Religious Education - Excellent

Report headlines :

The school is a centre of Christian hope and excellence where adults and pupils are happy, supported and thrive. This is possible because leadership, including by governors, is inspiring, focusing on the wellbeing and education of all.

Relationships throughout the school are exceptional. They exemplify the school's Christian vision of following the example of Jesus and doing everything in love.

Always by invitation and without compulsion, worship is inspiring and inclusive. It brings the Christian vision to life. Adults and the bright lights pupil team, collaboratively plan and coordinate the leading and evaluation of worship. Ensuring they reflect the Christian and secular calendars; they appreciate how to bring God to the heart of the community.

Trinity and St Michael's is a community that flourishes because it stands firm in faith, is courageous and strong and does everything in love.

Trinity Methodist Church—Croston

The Methodist governors, along with their Anglican counterparts have supported this extremely successful primary school over a significant number of years. The Methodist governor team has previously included Revd Michael Tindsley, Pam Silk the former Chair of Governors, Robin Hoole and Helen Ince.

The Methodist governor team now includes Revd Sue Guenault, Robin Hoole who has now served for an impressive twelve years, Hayley Fisher and George Lloyd.

Claire Procter the Headteacher, also recognises the very valuable contribution currently being made by our excellent Methodist Schools and Family Worker Cheryl O' Connor. The impact of Cheryl's work has been significant in the school and also in the Church.

The powerful and creative school graphic entitled 'Do Everything in Love' which greets you as you enter the main school entrance was designed by the extremely talented Methodist governor Hayley Fisher.

Sharing with you the School's vision statement is an appropriate conclusion to this inspiring and encouraging Christian outcome.

'At Trinity and St Michael's Church of England and Methodist Primary School we strive to follow Jesus' example and do everything in love.'

Croston Leadership Team



Emmanuel Methodist URC, Ormskirk

SATURDAY HUBS

LIVE MUSIC
TEA, COFFEE & BISCUITS
10.30am—1.30pm

Saturday August 19th

Men in Black - (Male A Cappella Group)

Saturday September 9th

Susan Lambert - Superb Harp Entertainment

Saturday October 21st

Trouble at 'Mill Duo - (Music & Humour)

Methodist Churches Together
in Skelmersdale

Garden Party

at Up Holland Methodist Church

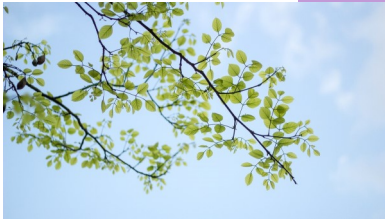


Saturday 12th August 2pm

Tickets £5 - including refreshments

Everyone welcome

Trinity Methodist URC Church & Up Holland Methodist Church



Laughter

A day without laughter is a day wasted,' said Charlie Chaplin. I used to love watching funny black and white films with my dad, and it was great to see what amused him and what caused him to belly laugh. Emotions are a gift from God, enabling us to express our joys and pains, so that our deep feelings do not remain contained and turn on ourselves. I certainly believe that laughter, as the saying goes, is the best medicine.

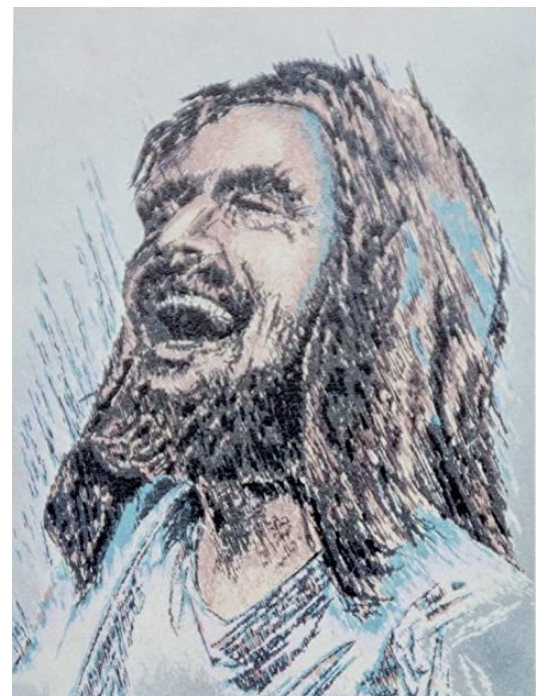
I like to think that Jesus laughed, but we don't read that in the Bible. We read that Jesus cried tears of sorrow when his friend Lazarus died and that he wept when he saw Jerusalem (John 11:33-34; Luke 11:41). When Jesus is portrayed in art, he is traditionally shown as serious and thoughtful. Perhaps this is a way of showing respect for the Son of God. Indeed, smiling and laughing can be interpreted differently in different cultures. At school, I took Russian and was told by my Russian teacher that my ready smile might make me appear idiotic and untrustworthy in Moscow. A smile had to be earned. This was the era of perestroika and glasnost, so perhaps this seriousness was more to do with the political situation at the time.

What the Bible does say, is that Jesus felt joy. When Jesus tells the story of the lost sheep, the shepherd joyfully puts the sheep over his shoulders to carry it home, and invites his friends to rejoice with him because the sheep had been found. In Luke 10:21, Jesus is 'full of joy'. On another occasion, he is accused of being a glutton and a wine drinker, enjoying life a bit too much (Luke 7:34; Matthew 11:19). Surely that involves laughter.

About ten years ago I was very poorly with anxiety and depression. I had a beautiful counsellor, a Methodist with a deep faith, and she taught me to look for God in everyday life, especially when life is extra hard. She encouraged me to laugh on purpose. She called it 'practising divine laughter', meaning to rejoice in creation and in each other, just as God rejoices in creation and creatures. She was very wise. It was a powerful, profound practice, which allowed me to find life meaningful once again.

I'd like to share with you a picture she gave me. It's an illustration of Jesus laughing, drawn by artist Willis Wheatley in 1973 for the United Church of Canada, and it's one of the first images to show Jesus laughing in Christian art. I love its title: Christ the Liberator. I hope that as you ponder this image, you are able to feel the liberating laughter of Christ in your heart today.

With love, Rev. Alex



Emmanuel: Wayward Wanderers' Kintsugi Hearts



In June, we received a mailing from the United Reformed Church requesting churches to contribute Kintsugi Hearts to be used as decoration in the URC tent at Greenbelt, where they are continuing with the theme of 'Revolted Christians' (– people who take a stand to challenge or break the political, social and economic systems of our world in order to bring about justice).

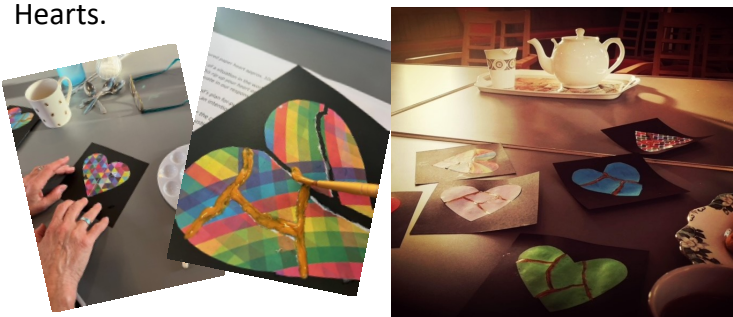
The Japanese art of Kintsugi takes broken objects, often ceramics, and repairs them with gold resin.

The resulting 'flaw' becomes part of the object's story adding to its beauty.

Stephanie Twilley, the URC at Greenbelt's craft team coordinator, says: "This made me think that as humans, we are all broken and flawed in some way. It is part of our faith that God can heal us and make us whole again and can transform and repair situations which at first seem impossible to us.

"Many revolted Christians have campaigned to create change in the world where there is conflict, injustice or seemingly impossible brokenness."

So, Emmanuel's Wayward Wanderers used their July get-together (for fellowship, tea/coffee and cake) as the perfect opportunity to be led by Cheryl to follow the activity's meditative instructions to create 21 Kintsugi Hearts.



We were encouraged to reflect on God's love being poured into the people, situations and places that are 'broken', bringing about healing, restoration and beauty - a reminder that there is hope in the midst of brokenness.

Ruth Rushworth, having participated in the making of the Kintsugi Hearts, created a wonderful Reflection based on the experience.....



He heals the broken hearted and binds up their wounds.
Psalm 147:3 NIV

We come to You, almighty God,
With our wounds beyond repair,
To your healing, restoring, perfect love,
To your gentleness, strength and care.

You gather the pieces of our heart,
Hold them closely to your breast,
You bind them with precious, heavenly gold,
In the way that You know is best.

You bring our mended hearts together,
Wrapped, in your loving embrace,
Our lives, our loves, our hopes to share,
In the presence of your grace.

Gracious God, we thank you for Jesus who willingly suffered and allowed his body to be broken, that we might know the extent of his amazing love and find new life, wholeness, purpose, hope and peace in Him....

We thank you for those people who walk alongside us in times of difficulty, in love, acceptance and prayer.....

We pray for people around the world whose lives are shattered and broken.....

May we pray for and offer comfort to others, with the comfort we ourselves have received.....

We offer these and all the prayers of our hearts to You, loving God, in Jesus' name. Amen

Ruth Rushworth

CHURCH SERVICES

	Sept				Oct				
	3 rd	10 th	17 th	24 th	1 st	8 th	15 th	22 nd	29 th
Burscough Orrell Lane 10.00 HP, CMP, STF, NIV	Janet Walton	Michael Tindsley F	Michael Tindsley Baptism	o/a	Michael Tindsley HF	o/a	Michael Tindsley S	Geoff Farthing	David Allen
Mere Brow Mere Brow 10.30 Lane HP MP StF	Michael Tindsley S 	Holmes	Tarleton	Geoff Farthing HF Michael Tindsley 2.30	Tarleton	Holmes	 Anne Wallbank	Michael Tindsley S	Geoff Farthing S
Tarleton Church Rd 10.30 HP, MP	Mere Brow	Liam Woods	Michael Tindsley 11.15 	Mere Brow	Janet Walton HF F 	Holmes	Mere Brow	Merle Farthing	Mere Brow
Holmes Park Lane 10.30 HP, MP, JP, 6.30	Mere Brow	Emma Birkbeck	Anne Wallbank	Mere Brow	Tarleton	Michael Tindsley HF Circuit Service 6.30	-----	-----	-----
Holmeswood Holmeswood Rd	All services	at Mere Brow	and Tarleton	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Ormskirk Derby St 11.00 HP, CMP, StF	Sue Guénault S	o/a	Malcolm Abbott	Sue Guénault HF F	Liam Woods	Sue Guénault Café Church	o/a	Sue Guénault S	Janet Walton
Croston Westhead Rd 10.30 HP, MP, STF	Mawdesley	Sue Guénault F	o/a	Merle Farthing	Sue Guénault HF P	Geoff Farthing	o/a	Lorraine Howarth	
Mawdesley Four Lane 10.30 Ends HP, MP, JP, NIV	o/a	Alex Laing HF	Croston	Lorraine Howarth	o/a	Merle Farthing	Croston	Alex Laing	Carrie Middleton
Trinity High Street 11.00 STF, GNB	Alex Laing Café Church	o/a	David Allen	Alex Laing HF S	Carrie Middleton	Malcolm Abbott	o/a	Mary Foley	Alex Laing S
Up Holland Alma Hill 11.00 STF LP	Carrie Middleton	Beacon	Alex Laing S	Michael Tindsley	Alex Laing HF F	Beacon	o/a	Malcolm Abbott	Beacon

MP – Mission Praise Combined HP – Hymns and Psalms LP – Let's Praise	CMP – Complete Mission Praise STF – Singing the Faith JP – Junior Praise NIV – New International Version	F – Family Service HF – Harvest Festival GNB – Good News	S – Sacrament/Communion o/a – Own Arrangement
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