

Good News

Lancashire West Methodist Circuit

Prayer of the Day from

Methodist.org.uk

Loving God who created all that lives, from the tiniest amoeba to the greatest of whales, which fill us with wonder and awe. We recognise your amazing ability to create out of what seems to be an impossibility, yet, we believe that all things are possible with you and we are grateful for your loving care.

Creator God, we believe that you created us, and that in each of us is something of a seed, an essence from you, a potential to grow and to influence others. May our seed have positive conditions for growth and become an influence for good in the world, helping to care for people in need and preserving life in all its forms.

Hilary Evans, former President, Methodist Women in Britain, 2021/2022



...for it is God who works in you, both to work and to will for His good pleasure. Philippians 2:13.

O Father, it is so comforting to remember that You never sleep. You constantly watch over us and care for us and guide us and Your Holy Spirit is constantly at work within us. Hallelujah, LORD.

Alex's Ordination 30th June



On Sunday June 30th I had the privilege of being at Wesley Chapel, Harrogate, for Alex's Ordination and had the honour of acting as her "assisting minister".

For Alex and the other Ordinands, the day had started at 8am in the Royal Armouries museum in Leeds, the venue for this years Methodist Conference. This was to rehearse for the stage choreography for the part of Conference Worship when they would be "Received

into Full Connexion" – the stage prior to the afternoon's Ordination Service. I didn't go to Leeds, but I know that some from the Circuit were at there to support Alex, and also that Trinity and Up Holland were following the Live stream during their morning services.

From Leeds the Ordinands had to travel out to the Churches where their respective services were taking place, for Alex this being Harrogate. We went straight to Harrogate ready for a rehearsal at 2.30pm. The Rev Dr Martin Atkins, [a former President of Conference/ Secretary of Conference/Principal of Cliff College and latterly minister at Westminster Central Hall], led the service together with representatives from the Methodist Connexion and World Church. The service included a reading by Prelate his Eminence, Rev Dr Oliver Ali Aba, [Methodist Church in Nigeria] from Romans 12:1-8, read in his own language; though with a translation in the order of service.

The Preacher was the Rev Dr Heather Morris, Secretary of the Irish Methodist Conference, who compared Ordination with the travels of St Brendan putting out in a boat across the sea to America. Heather's words to the Ordinands were "As we push you out today into wide waters, I pray that you will keep in the boat, I pray that you will stay rooted in God. "

The service included shouting – "They are worthy" and "We will uphold them", and a prolonged round of applause following the Ordination and the giving of Bibles. It was certainly a great privilege to have a part to play in such a wonderful service.

Cont. overleaf...



***Father, send the Holy Spirit upon
Alex for the office and work of a
Presbyter in your Church.”
AMEN***

The Service is available to watch on the Methodist YouTube Channel or by following the link below

Ordination Service. Wesley Chapel, Harrogate.
Sunday 30th June 2024 (youtube.com)

Hopefully when Alex is well enough to return to Circuit work, we will be able to gather together with her in a local celebration of her Ordination, but in the meantime we can pray the Prayer of St Brendan, with and for Alex.

Michael

PRAYER OF ST. BRENDAN

***"Help me to journey beyond the familiar
and into the unknown.***

***Give me the faith to leave old ways
and break fresh ground with You.***

***Christ of the mysteries, I trust You
to be stronger than each storm within me.***

***I will trust in the darkness and know
that my times, even now, are in Your hand.***

***Tune my spirit to the music of heaven,
and somehow, make my obedience count for
You."***

AMEN.



***"...receive this Bible
as a sign of the authority committed to you this
day
to preach the word of God
and to celebrate the sacraments."***

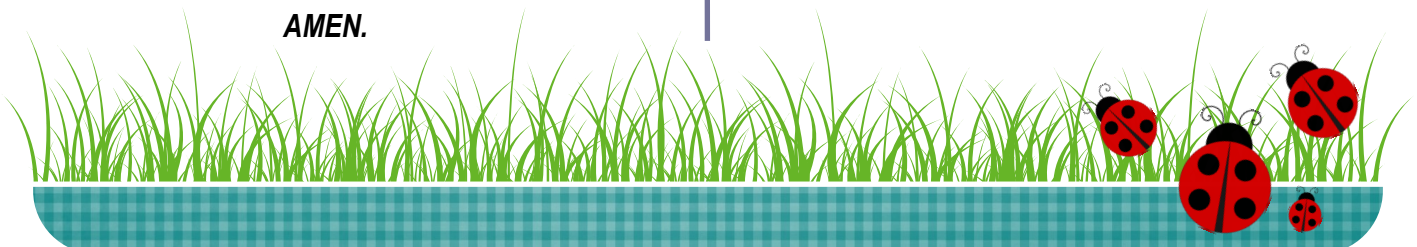
A note from the Editor

As I edit my final edition of *Good News*, I reflect on my time as circuit administrator for the Lancashire West Methodist Circuit. Since September 2011, you have welcomed me, encouraged me, and enriched this role.

Serving in this circuit had been a privilege. I carry with me fond memories: sharing in Hope Journey's, stapling countless copies of *West Links* in the circuit office and gathering pieces of 'good news' from around the circuit during lockdown. Your dedication and warmth will remain with me.

As I say farewell and leave the role as circuit administrator, I wish the circuit continued growth and blessings going forward.

God bless, Jayne





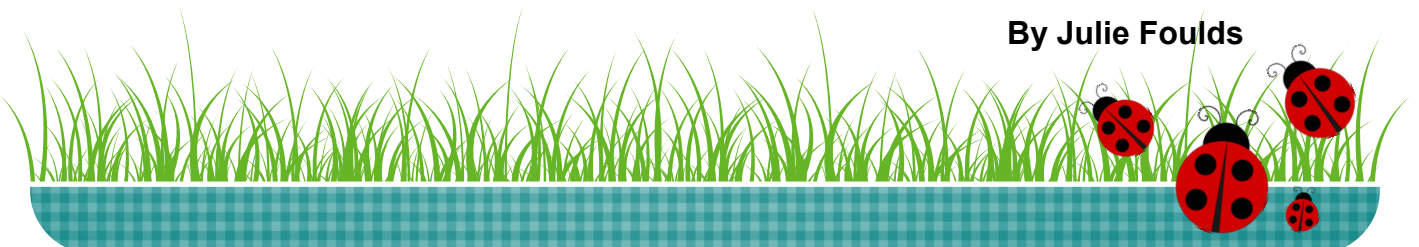
It Started With A Vision

It started with a vision, that came to Reverend Sue.
A safe place in the worship area, but for what and for who?
An all inclusive hub for our community,
A warm and happy place for everyone to be.
To have the cross of Jesus the focal point for all,
the altar and the banners, papering the wall.
To know you are accepted and loved for who you are
by God, the first and foremost, you are our shining star.

A lot of help was needed to make the dream come true,
A team of volunteers, there to welcome you.
Love, warmth, compassion and a listening ear,
Time to hear your story, the thoughts you hold so dear.
Time given freely to offer you support,
The joy of being with others when you're feeling really bored.
No one should be made to feel that they are all alone,
Surround yourself with friendly faces, a real home from home.

Here at the Emmanuel, you will clearly see,
The lovely welcome you'll receive, week after week.
A feeling of togetherness will wash over you
and also, if you do so wish, a silent prayer or two.
Come and sit with us, for whatever reason,
For a cuppa or a chat, in whatever season.
There is one thing I ask of you and that is to look back
Where would we be right now, without that vision that set us on this track?

By Julie Foulds



Love Beyond Our Shores Circuit Event

Sunday September 1st 2-4pm

Croston Methodist Church

Westhead Rd
PR26 9RQ

Moira and Phil from The Mamie Martin
Fund will update everyone
on

**“Our Lancashire West Girls”
in Malawi**



*Do come along, present supporters, and all those who
would like to find out about this important partnership.
There will be refreshments and time to chat.*

Join us on 1st September for an exciting Circuit Event!

Moira Dunworth and Phil Wright, trustees of The Mamie Martin Fund, will update us on our Lancashire West Girls, who are entering their fourth & final secondary school year. Despite challenges, they've completed three years—an impressive achievement.

Our partnership with The Mamie Martin Fund has opened doors to a better future. Thanks to you, the great support of the trustees and Mercy Sibande, MMF manager in Malawi.

Moira will update us on the girls plus share exciting MMF developments, including a book about women missionaries, particularly Mamie Martin. The author generously donates all proceeds to MMF.

Join us for singing, delicious cakes, and a lovely afternoon!”

And here's the poem by “Our Lancashire West Girls,” Blandina and Lucia: “The Black Tear.”

Their education in Malawi is empowering women and building a brighter future, free from poverty.

The Black Tear

A poem by Blandina Ngoma and
Lucia Mbukwa, F3 St Mary's,
Karonga, Malawi

I'm pruned from the poor
even never to reach the moon
which is my fate
yet to arrive late
I'm disposed in the dirty
and never to fulfil my destiny

My hope vanished
my dream became invisible
and I was nothing
yet you made me invincible
rescued me from the uneducated
and straightened my contour
like a gospel singer
I will praise you forever

You are indeed the saviours
to wipe my tears
you brought me to school
took me away from my sweet
sorrow
that dug and dragged me below
yet loud and loud
my education calls from the west

‘Donors’
yes, I heard it well
they are here to build me
now blue and white I dress
gather my future to the race
enjoy the sweet of my sweat
and never betray my future.

NORTH WEST ENGLAND DISTRICT LAUNCH EVENT



31.08.24

**2.30PM START
DOORS OPEN 2PM**

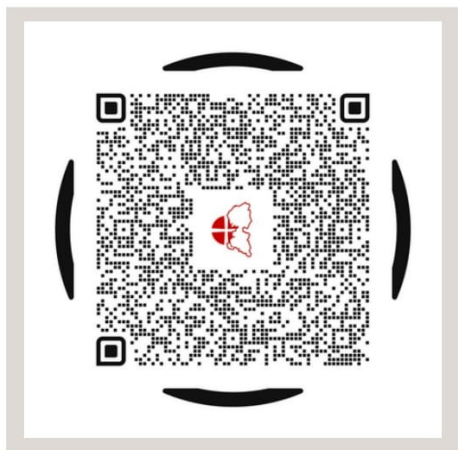
VICTORIA HALL, BOLTON, BL1 2AS



This event is an opportunity to celebrate as five districts become one, to form the North West England District. Starting at 2.30pm, the event will include the welcome service for Rev. Dr. James Tebbutt, our District Chair (subject to Methodist Conference), and will also welcome the wider District Team. The President of Conference will be preaching, with the Vice-President and Secretary of Conference in attendance.

THIS EVENT WILL BE LIVESTREAMED: DETAILS WILL BE ANNOUNCED SHORTLY

BOOK YOUR PLACE



If you're attending onsite, please book in advance so that we can plan accordingly. Bookings help us to ensure accessibility for all, including those needing aisle seats or wheelchair access. If you're arriving by coach, please indicate when you book. To book your place, scan the QR code with a smartphone camera, click the below link or contact your District Administrator.

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/whats-on/bolton/the-victoria-hall-bolton/north-west-england-district-launch-event/2024-08-31/14:30/t-ojpnjag>



NORTH WEST ENGLAND METHODIST DISTRICT

NORTH WEST ENGLAND METHODIST DISTRICT

Mission Areas

Cumbria

Lancashire

Liverpool Plus

Greater Manchester Plus

Hubs

Mission & Leadership

Ministry & Vocations

Administration
& Compliance

Supporting you, your church and your circuit to *develop and engage in mission*.

DISTRICT HUBS

Our Hubs support and help circuits to engage in mission.

Ministry & Vocations

Led by:

Rev Phil Gough
District Secretary for
Ministry and Vocations

Responsibilities:

Candidates for Ministry
Chaplaincy
Children and Youth
Ministry Development
Justice, Dignity & Solidarity and
Equality, Diversity & Inclusion
Lay Authorisations
Lay Worker support
Learning and Development
Local Preaching
& Worship Leading
Partner relationships
Probationers and U5s/U10s
Reflective Supervision
Sabbaticals

Mission & Leadership

Led by:

Rev Dr James Tebbutt
District Chair

Responsibilities:

Communication
Eco & Environment
Ecumenical relationships
Education
sector liaison
Global Relations
Inter/Multi-Faith
Mission development
Mission in Rural & Urban areas
New Places for New
People & Pioneering
Public issues &
Social Responsibility
Stationing
Superintendents

Administration & Compliance

Led by:

Ms Heather Fergusson
District Secretary for
Administration & Compliance

Responsibilities:

Admin support
Finance
Grants
Lay Employment
Other governance and
compliance: archives,
disability access advice,
GDPR, health and safety, etc
Property
Reconciliation
& Complaints
Safeguarding

MISSION AREAS

To help contextual mission and relationships, the North West England District is divided in four Mission Areas:

Cumbria

Lancashire

Liverpool Plus

Greater Manchester Plus

These Mission Areas hold no governance responsibilities, but enable contextual support and implementation.

Each Mission Area will be led by a Mission Area Lead (MAL), a Presbyterian who will also have the role of Deputy Chair. Because of its population, Greater Manchester Plus will have two MALs. These are half time posts, with the other half of their time spent in a Circuit appointment.

Responsibilities of Mission Area Leads:

- Facilitate mission
- Deputise for the District Chair
- Encourage and nurture connections
- Partner with ecumenical, faith, and civic leaders

Upholland—Vestry Refurbishment



The vestry had become a dumping ground for anything & everything that we didn't know what to do with. The cupboards were full of paperwork, old books etc that hadn't been looked at for years. It wasn't a pleasant room as it was always quite dark, and had no window. There was a old desk and a couple of chairs and an enormous safe with very little in it. Also, some old metal filing cabinets which had long since lost their keys. These were also full of old paperwork.

We have a thriving toddler group and it became apparent that we needed a suitable quiet space to talk to parents, grandparents & carers who were experiencing a range of issues and had no-one and nowhere to turn to.

So, the Church Council decided to do something with the vestry to make it a more welcoming & useable space. We managed to secure some funding from The Benefact Trust towards the work.

A group of us got together to sort all the "stuff" that had been in the vestry, including old paperwork from before the church moved to its current location in the 1960s! We also had cupboards fitted in the foyer to store archives, Christmas decorations, and everything else that had been dumped in the vestry.

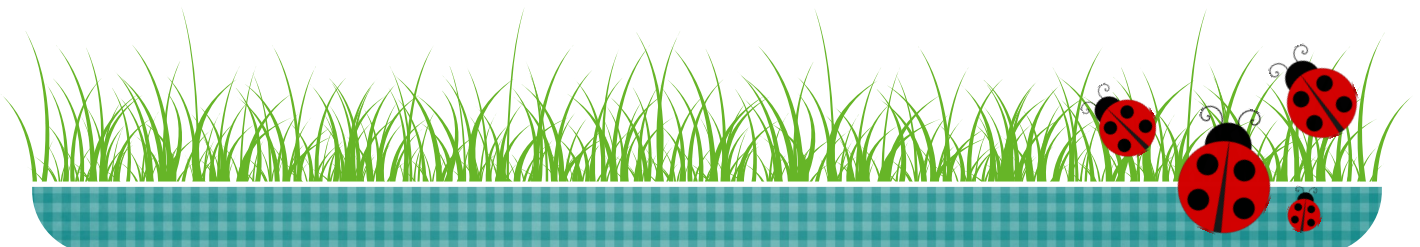
We installed a window in the vestry with a fantastic view towards Rivington, upgraded the electrics, installed a false ceiling, replaced the vestry door with one with a window to adhere to safeguarding regulations, decorated, re carpeted and bought new furniture.

The results are amazing.

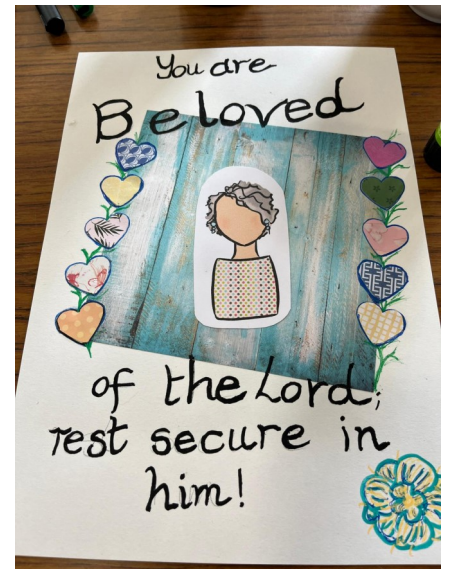
It is now a welcoming, safe, relaxing place to sit & reflect, read, pray, meet/chat with others and offer advice & support to those who need it.

Anyone can access this space when the building is open, which is at some time every day as there are numerous groups who use the building.

Please come to look when you are next at UpHolland.



Neighbourhood Project / Peaced Together Retreat Day



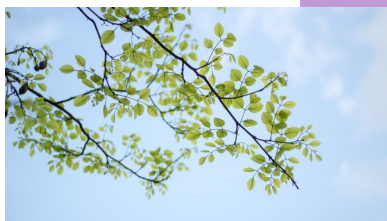
A Day of Nourishment and Stillness

On Saturday, June 29th, a group of ladies gathered for a Retreat Day organized by the Liverpool District Methodist Neighbourhood Project. The event was specifically designed for those who had previously participated in the Peaced Together initiative at UpHolland, along with their friends.

We convened at Upholland Methodist Church, where Hayley James and Rev Caroline Ainger arranged a delightful day filled with pampering, relaxation, crafting, and creativity. The attention to detail was impeccable, and the overarching theme was "Be Still." Taking a day solely for ourselves felt like a rare treat—one that nourished our souls, minds, and bodies.

Heartfelt thanks to the organisers for providing such a thoughtful and indulgent experience. We feel truly blessed to have you in our District.





Events around the Circuit

Burscough Methodist Church

CAFÉ CHURCH

INFORMAL WORSHIP
IN A RELAXED SETTING

Wednesday 7th August

7.00pm in the Hall

Guest Speaker:

Mr. Jonathan Richardson

All Welcome - for worship, fellowship,
and refreshments

Emmanuel Community Hubs

Our Thursday Hubs continue throughout the year, everyone is welcome for chat, crafts, drinks and cake!

Join us from 10am – 1pm. We have lots of regulars now and new people joining us every week.

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Our Saturday Hubs are also still taking place with Live Music,

**July 27th** - we welcome recording artist ASA Murphy. ASA has recently toured the UK and Ireland with his self-penned musical Irish Annie's. If you enjoy swing music a la Sinatra and Dean Martin you will love ASA.

**August 31st** sees the return of Treble T trio with their brand of popular numbers.

**September 28th**—Melling Gospel Choir are at the Hub once again to thrill us with their inspirational harmonies.

### Burscough Bridge Methodist Primary School

#### Strawberry Cream Tea



**Friday 12th July**

**2.00pm—4.30pm**

Join us in the church hall and school gardens

Tea or coffee served with scone, jam and cream £3

**Burscough Bridge**  
Methodist Primary School



# Burscough Bridge

## Methodist Primary School



This half term the children of BBMS enjoyed a wonderful day with Cheryl learning all about Pentecost! We listened to stories, made symbols to represent the Holy Spirit, wrote lyrics to fit into a song and make wind instruments!



It was also the time of year where we have our annual Easter competition! The children and their families are encouraged to decorate an egg to represent Easter! We had lots of amazing entries!



# Circuit Family and Schools Worker

## Update July 2024

One evening earlier this week, I was looking back through my 2023/24 diary ready to transfer certain key dates into my lovely new pristine (for now!) diary for 2024-25. What a busy year this last one has been!

As Circuit Family and Schools Worker, my role is wide and varied, and also flexible to fit with the needs of the circuit at any particular time.

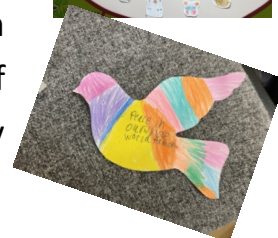
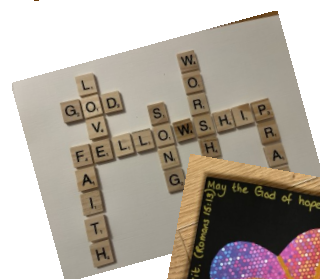
Between September 2023 and July 2024, I've had the privilege to meet in fellowship and share God's love with so many different people whose ages range from just a few months up to 90+ years!

I have been involved with Toddler groups, Messy Churches, Study Groups, Home Visits, various meetings, Messy Vintage (as well as taking a couple of those sessions into the evening Café Church and afternoon Cluster at Burscough), I've led two Sunday morning services, and planned, organised and led a full programme of workshops and sessions in our circuit Primary Schools. To be able to meet with, and encounter God and Jesus with, around 800 children and the staff each term is a wonderful experience and opportunity.

This year we've done this through Agape services, Wesley workshops, Bears and Prayers, Christian Values Prayer Days (tailored to match the values of each school), Creation Art Days, Pentecost Activity Days, and "It's Your Move" sessions (for Year 6).

I am very grateful for and appreciative of those members within our circuit who have given their time to volunteer to help and support me in facilitating these sessions - know who you are....THANK YOU!

Every Blessing, Cheryl





# CHURCH SERVICES

|                                                            | July                |                        |                    | August               |                  |                  |                  |
|------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
|                                                            | 14 <sup>th</sup>    | 21 <sup>st</sup>       | 28 <sup>th</sup>   | 4 <sup>th</sup>      | 11 <sup>th</sup> | 18 <sup>th</sup> | 25 <sup>th</sup> |
| <b>Burscough</b><br>Orrell Lane 10.00<br>HP, CMP, STF, NIV | Michael Tindsley F  | Merle Farthing         | Michael Tindsley S | Andrew Richardson    | Michael Tindsley | o/a              | Janet Walton     |
| <b>Mere Brow</b><br>Mere Brow Lane 10.30<br>MPC HP         | David King S        | o/a<br>[Graham W]      | o/a<br>[Colin A]   | Tarleton             | o/a<br>[Karen T] | David Allen      | Lynn Watson      |
| <b>Tarleton</b><br>Church Rd 10.30<br>HP, MP,              | Lynn Watson         | Mere Brow              | Liam Woods         | Michael Tindsley F S | o/a              | Mere Brow        | Merle Farthing   |
| <b>Ormskirk</b><br>Derby St 11.00<br>CMP, StF              | Lorraine Howarth    | Michael Tindsley       | Sue Guénault S     | Geoff Farthing       | Sue Guénault     | o/a              | Sue Guénault S   |
| <b>Croston</b><br>Westhead Rd 10.30<br>HP, MP, STF         | Sue Guénault F      | o/a<br>[Rachel + Mark] | Malcolm Abbott     | Mawdesley            | Liam Woods       | Sue Guénault S   | o/a              |
| <b>Mawdesley</b><br>Four Lane Ends 10.30<br>HP, MP, STF,   | <b>Tent Service</b> | Croston                | Geoff Farthing     | o/a F                | Merle Farthing   | Croston          | Geoff Farthing   |
| <b>Trinity</b><br>High Street 11.00<br>STF, GNB            | Liam Woods          | Geoff Farthing S       | Janet Walton       | Merle Farthing Café  | Michael Tindsley | o/a              | o/a              |
| <b>Up Holland</b><br>Alma Hill 11.00<br>STF LP             | Vivienne Mitchell   | David Allen            | o/a                | Lorraine Howarth     | Chris Dunbar     | Geoff Farthing S | Paul Lock        |

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

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