



BURNLEY & PENDLE CIRCUIT

THE METHODIST CHURCH

God's grace in love and action

Newsletter Tuesday 23rd April – Monday 6th May 2024

Prayer Time

Loving God, we praise you and we give you thanks in this Easter Season for the love we have in Jesus' name and for the new start that Jesus gives us every time we come to you in prayer. Help us to share this love, particularly with those we find difficult, and give us the grace to know that others may find us difficult to love at times. God of grace, give us the grace to follow our Master and our friend. Amen.

Please continue to pray:

- For peace in Gaza, Israel, Ukraine, Russia and the many other places of conflict in the world, giving thanks for the United Nations and other peacemakers working towards this goal.
- For the people of Gaza, for an ending to the horrendous situation in which they find themselves.
- For those of the Jewish faith who are feeling intimidated by the recent peace protests in many of our city centres, a knock-on effect from the conflict in the Holy Land. We pray for compassion and understanding for all those lobbying for peace.
- For our government and those in positions of power and influence that they will be guided into making good decisions that benefit the most vulnerable and marginalised in our society. Pray for wisdom and integrity as difficult decisions are made in what are often highly pressurised situations.

Circuit Events in the next fortnight

Circuit Messy Church on Friday 26th April at Brierfield Methodist Church, 4-6pm

Circuit Messy church on Friday 3rd May at Christ Church, 4-6pm

Easter Offering Service on Sunday 6th May at Padiham Road at 3pm. The theme is LET JUSTICE ROLL. We dedicate the Offerings collected at our Circuit Churches as we learn more of the work done in the world through the World Mission Fund and enjoy a time of fellowship together.

Church Events in the next fortnight

Friday Night is Music Night with South Pennine Singers at Padiham Road on Friday 26th April at 6.30pm.

Sheep Hunt at Wheatley Lane on Saturday 4th – Monday 6th May from 11am – 4pm. Come and join in the sheep hunt around the village as well as view the Daisy Chain Installation inside the church. Refreshments available.

Future Circuit Events

Circuit TKC Ascension Day Service on Thursday 9th May at Brunshaw at 7.30pm led by Richard Hoyle

Circuit TKC Pentecost Evening Service on Sunday 19th May at Wheatley Lane at 6pm led by Revd Rick Ormrod

- For the forthcoming local council elections; for the candidates, their agents, workers and supporters. May they promise nothing they cannot deliver, and may their policies truly and realistically represent the needs of the people they aim to serve.
- For all those suffering injustice because of poor decisions in the past and for people who find themselves needing to take industrial action in order to have their voices heard. Pray for understanding, justice and compromise where needed.
- For all those affected by the climatic changes we are experiencing; farmers at home and abroad; residents of island nations losing their land to rising sea levels; hot, dry countries experiencing torrential rainfall. May we make the changes necessary to alleviate the pressures on our beautiful, God given world.
- For people we know who are unwell, in hospital or at home; for those awaiting appointments or diagnoses; for our NHS both locally and nationally.
- For the final Lancashire Methodist District Synod on Saturday 27th April, and the service to celebrate the District and all that has been done in the past to share the love of Christ in this corner of God's Kingdom.
- For all our churches as we seek new ways to engage with our local communities and share the love we have from Jesus.
- For our local communities, may they become and continue to be places of warmth, security, love and friendship, with those who "have" helping those who "have not", and vice versa. Help us to learn and understand each other's needs and to be useful and compassionate members of society.

Future Church Events

Community Lunch at Christ Church on Tuesdays 14th May and 11th June at 12 noon. All welcome.

Childrens Clothes – Recycle Drop In at Wheatley Lane Church on Thursday 13th & Friday 14th June, 2-4pm and Saturday 15th June 10-12noon. Cakes & coffee available too.

Thy Kingdom Come (TKC) 9th-19th May 2024

Thy Kingdom Come is a worldwide prayer movement that happens each year between Ascension Day and Pentecost Sunday. This year the Circuit's Bible and Prayer Focus Group have distributed to our churches over 250 tealights with a Bible verse attached to them. These are to be given out to people at community outreach events during the above-mentioned period.

Also the TKC prayer journals have gone out to churches to be distributed on Sunday 5th May or earlier. These journals are for daily use between Ascension Day (9th May) and Pentecost Sunday (19th May). This year, as always, we invite you to choose 5 people who do not yet know the love of God for themselves, and to pray for them each day. Please make sure you get one of these journals over the next two weeks in advance of the 9th May. Please look at the TKC website for more information.

Christian Aid week 12th-18th May 2024.

If any churches in the Circuit would like some Christian Aid envelopes, posters and Devotionals for the Week resources contact Bea on bea_foster@hotmail.com .07875517043. Please support, as the need, as we all know is great in our world. Thanks.

Celebration Worship

Congratulations to Wheatley Lane Methodist Primary School on joining the Epworth Trust Academy. To celebrate this momentous occasion Mrs Julie-Anne Hewitt from the Epworth Trust led a celebration service in the school hall last Monday (on 15th April). It was a lovely for members of the Burnley & Pendle Methodist Circuit to celebrate this special occasion with the children, teachers & governors of the school.



Heritage event

Last Saturday's, 'A spring celebration' was another successful local Methodist Heritage event. Grateful thanks to St John's church for being the hosts and to everyone who supported the event including the Mayor and Mayoress of Pendle, Councillor Brian Newman and his wife Lynne. Richard Hoyle dedicated the blue heritage plaque for Mary Taft (nee Barritt), the first woman local preacher in the area. The Methodist churches in Colne exhibition was very informative as were the Colne Heritage Trail walk and talk.

The next local Methodist heritage event will be on Saturday 20th July at Wheatley Lane church which will focus on Methodism in Higham, Fence and Wheatley Lane. There will be walks between the villages and a heritage exhibition in Wheatley Lane church. Watch out for further details nearer the time.



Poster



[The next newsletter will be on Tuesday 7th May 2024.](#)

[Please note this will cover 2 weeks from Tuesday 7th May to Monday 20th May 2024.](#)

[Please forward any contributions to me before 5pm on Monday 6th May 2024.](#)

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