

Burnley & Pendle

Methodist Circuit Newsletter

Tuesday 31st March - Monday 27th April 2026



Prayer Points

Please pray:

- For the gift of peace where there is only war and hatred. For Ukraine and Russia, for Gaza and Israel, for Iran and America, and the other Gulf States who are being dragged into the hostilities.
- For all those who are now suffering from the fallout of war, who are missing loved ones and those who are struggling with rising costs
- For our own government, that they may make wise decisions at this time
- For our own communities that there will be people to support those who are in need
- For our circuit service on Maundy Thursday, and all services on Good Friday and Easter Sunday
- For our own circuit, churches and congregations, as we strive to spread and live out the good news of Jesus Christ this Easter
- For ourselves as we experience once again the power of the cross, and the glory of Christ's resurrection

Upcoming Circuit Events

Saturday 4th April 8am - Circuit Prayer Breakfast at Brierfield led by Bea Foster

Upcoming Church Events

Tuesday 31st March 2pm - Tuesday Fellowship welcome the return of story teller Sue Allonby at Brunshaw

Saturday 11th April 10am-12noon - American Coffee Morning at Higherford

Tuesday 14th April 2pm - Tuesday Fellowship - a talk by Revd Geoff Nadin at Brunshaw

Thursday 16th April 2pm - Piano Cafe at Higherford

Saturday 18th April 10am - 1pm - Bacon Butty Morning at Briercliffe Road

Friday 24th April 4pm - Daffodil Tea with quiz & tombola at Christ Church, Nelson. Please join us for afternoon tea, quizzes and a tombola. £5, all proceeds for our mission fund. If you wish to attend or have any new items suitable for the tombola please contact Jill Dugdale.

See posters below

Superintendent's Easter Message

Dear Friends,

At the heart of our Christian faith is Easter, when Jesus was raised from the death to glorious new life! We know about this because of one person. In all four gospel accounts Mary Magdalene goes to Jesus' tomb, in some accompanied and in others alone. John's Gospel, always the set lectionary gospel reading for Easter Day, makes it very clear that the first person to meet the risen Jesus was Mary Magdalene, a woman.

It was Mary who told the remaining 11 male disciples of the resurrection before they met the risen Jesus himself. Mary Magdalene was the apostle to the apostles.

John's gospel makes it clear that Jesus chose Mary Magdalene to be the first witness of the resurrection. By choosing Mary Magdalene as the primary witness of his resurrection Jesus was saying something very important to the world in the first century, something radical and revolutionary: something just as relevant to our world today: that women matter, that women are important and that women are the equals of men in every way.

We may think we have it covered in the British Methodist Church as we have had female Local Preachers since 1910 and have been ordaining women as Presbyters since 1974. Sadly I still come across Methodists who haven't accepted this. A Presbyterian friend of mine told me how a congregation member had said to her, "I like you as a person but because you are a woman I cannot accept you as a Presbyter."

Friends, I firmly believe that in choosing Mary Magdalene as the first witness of his resurrection Jesus was declaring the full equality of women and his trust in them as proclaimers of the good news.

St Paul wrote: "There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

So let us celebrate Easter together as those who are completely equal in the sight of God, co-heirs with Christ and inheritors of eternal life.

Yours in Christ. Rick

Easter services around the Circuit

Maundy Thursday Circuit Service (2nd April) - 7pm at Wheatley Lane

Good Friday (3rd April) -

9:00am at Brierfield led by Rev Graff

9.30am at Padiham Road led by Rev Ormrod

10.00am at Greenbrook led by Rev Graff

10.00am at Wheatley Lane led by Ian Wheeler

10.30am at Briercliffe Road led by Rev Booth

11am at Christ Church led by Rev Ormrod

11am at Higherford led by Rev Graff

11am at St John's led by Rev Perry

Easter Sunday (5th April) -

9.30am at Greenbrook led by Rev Graff

9.30am at Hapton led by Rev Green

9.30am at Padiham Road led by Rev Ormrod

9.30am at Wheatley Lane led by Rev Perry

11am at Briercliffe Road led by Christine Barnes & Doreen Landriau

11am at Brierfield led by Rev Graff

11am at Central led by Rev Green

11am at Christ Church led by Rev Ormrod

11am at Higherford led by Rev Perry

11am at St Andrew's led by Bea Foster

11am at St John's led by Ian Wheeler. This is also live streamed on zoom - please contact the Circuit office for log in details)

2pm at Southfield led by Rev Graff

Brierfield Sunday Worship

From the beginning of May, Brierfield Church will have worship on the 2nd & 4th Sundays in the month rather than weekly.

Eco church news

Congratulations to Wheatley Lane church on receiving the Eco Church silver award .

Stamps - Message from Embrace the Middle East

Thank you for your kind donations of stamps which help support our education program, which is a powerful and effective way to lift people out of poverty and equip them with the skills to help themselves and transform their communities.

Our Stamp Fellowship has raised over six thousand pounds in the last three years alone.

Thank you so much for standing with our Christian partners as they provide wonderful projects to enhance the lives of children and their families every day.

Your support, prayer, and compassion for children in the Middle East has been amazing. Again, we want to say thank you for the part you have played in making a difference to many lives.

Our partners continue to be salt and light in their communities, serving tirelessly in the most challenging situations. Your support of the stamp fellowship will help them to continue their service, enabling lives to be changed, hope to be rekindled and futures secured for so many living on the margins.

Circuit Celebration Service

Many thanks to everyone who came to the Circuit Celebration for local preachers held at Christ Church. It was great to celebrate the service of six local preachers (Barry, Ian, Ken, Tony, Shirley and Erica) who have preached in the circuit over many years. Grateful thanks to those who donated cakes too.



A prayer that we may live to God's glory

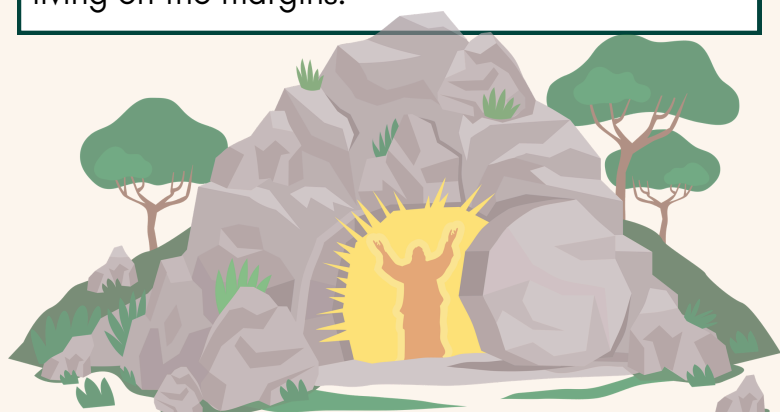
Be a light, O Lord, to our eyes, music to our ears and contentment to our heart. Be sunlight in our day, food at our table and rest in our night. Receive into your protection our body and our soul, our freedom and our life. Being about your business let us live to your glory. Amen.

John Cosin (1594-1672)

Next Circuit Newsletter

The next newsletter will be on Tuesday 28th April 2026. Please forward any contributions to me before 5pm on Monday 27th April 2026. Thank you.

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Higherford Methodist Church

American Coffee Morning

Saturday 11th April

10.00am – 12.00pm

American themed snacks
Stalls
Raffle

Briercliffe Road Church
Melville Street
Burnley
BB10 3DY



Bacon Butty Morning to be held
at Briercliffe Road church
on
Saturday 18th April 10a.m. - 1 p.m.
£5 pounds per person
with unlimited brews payable at the door.
Come along and enjoy the company



HIGHERFORD METHODIST CHURCH
INVITES YOU TO A PIANO CAFE
With Rev Adrian Parry



Thursday April 16th
2pm
Cream Teas
Donations towards the work of this church