

The cover features a vibrant background with a gradient from orange at the top to yellow in the middle. A dense, dark brown thicket of thorny, coiled vines dominates the upper half, with some circular loops resembling sunbursts. The lower half is filled with a lush, detailed illustration of various wildflowers in shades of purple, blue, pink, and white, with green foliage. A solid red banner is positioned in the top right corner.

**Methodist Prayer  
Handbook 2023/2024**

# HIDDEN TREASURES

**Prayers for every day of the year**

## Using the Methodist Prayer Handbook

The Prayer Handbook is arranged as a **monthly cycle**, starting with day 1 of the month on page 12. You can use it as a daily devotional or just dip in. Whether you are leading a group or praying on your own, you might find it helpful to select only a few prayers for each day; and use different prayers from that day during another month – so that you are not praying the same prayers every month.

Do add your own notes in the margins to remind you of things you would like to pray for on particular days. You may also want to add your own prayers for the people listed at the side of each page.

**General prayers** are on pages 2-9, which you can use for collective worship, in other settings, or privately. These include prayers specific to the activities of the Methodist Church in Britain.

The **lectionary** on pages 43-58 offers suggestions for a Scripture reading, hymn and psalm for each day of the year, alongside commitments from A Methodist Way of Life. For a daily commentary on each lectionary reading, please look at the Methodist Church online Bible study A Word in Time at [methodist.org.uk/a-word-in-time](https://methodist.org.uk/a-word-in-time)

**Additional resources** are listed on page 100.

However you use **Hidden Treasures**, know that this is a resource shared by our Methodist fellowship across the world.

## How to submit material for the next Prayer Handbook

The theme for the 2024/2025 Prayer Handbook will be announced during autumn 2023. Please look out for this on the Methodist Church website, in e-newsletters and on social media.

Please email only one prayer per contributor, by **Monday 8 January 2024** to: [prayerhandbook@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:prayerhandbook@methodistchurch.org.uk) giving your name, postal address and how you would like to be described, as well as your circuit if relevant to your prayer.

Prayers must be no longer than 120 words and should be appropriate for use from September 2024 to August 2025. Please also email photographs that will help bring our theme to life, especially images with people. Photographs should be sent in their original size along with a brief description listing where they were taken.

If you do not have internet access, please post prayers to:  
Prayer Handbook Editor, The Methodist Church, 25 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9SF.  
Please do not post photographs.

Before sending contributions, please read the full submission guidelines at [methodist.org.uk/prayerhandbook](https://methodist.org.uk/prayerhandbook)

# Hidden Treasures

## Prayer Handbook 2023/2024



Gill Newton, President (left) and Kerry Scarlett, Vice-President

### A word from the President and Vice-President of the British Methodist Conference 2023/2024

The words of Isaiah 45:3 were spoken to people experiencing huge disruption, conflict and challenge. Likewise, God is with us in our challenging times. Even in the midst of uncertainty, we hear stories about how people have encountered God at work in unexpected places, and amongst unexpected people. Finding these hidden treasures and riches in our churches and communities can help us to rediscover a sense of hope about what lies ahead and find a renewed calling to see where God is at work and join in (*missio Dei*).

It is perhaps deeply prophetic to hope for “treasures and riches” whilst also acknowledging that the dominant narrative around us is that of decline, fragility and vulnerability. As we are reminded in Romans 8:22-29 and Psalm 139, sometimes the potential and breadth of the riches of God’s work remain unknown for a long time, as if performing the hidden work of gestation before coming to birth.

To continue to follow God in these uncertain times means having the courage to recognise that the Church we are called to become may look different to what we are used to. Yet, even as new church communities and gatherings are forming in exciting and different ways, they carry with them some of our ‘Methodist DNA’ – the treasures of our distinctive Methodist tradition and heritage.

Our hope and prayer is that we will all be open to seeing the treasures revealed to us in our own contexts.

I will give you the  
treasures of darkness  
and riches hidden  
in secret places,  
so that you may  
know that it is I,  
the LORD,  
the God of Israel,  
who call you by  
your name.

*Isaiah 45:3*

*Also: Romans 8:22-29;  
Psalm 139*

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# Hidden Treasures

Prayers for services, collective worship or groups

Loving God,  
You have promised that you will remain with us, always.  
Even when we are tempted to despair, you still call us by name.  
You reveal to us the treasures that are all around us;  
the places, the people, who will speak to us words of surprising hope and truth.

Give us the wisdom to value the riches you reveal to us  
in the everyday, and in the unexpected,  
in the new and surprising and in the practices of old.

Give us the courage to share them,  
to speak and to show your good news,  
that your kingdom of joy and peace grows here on earth. Amen.

*Kerry Scarlett, Vice-President of the Conference 2023/2024*

Dear Lord, we come before you recognising our failure to look for wonder in those places  
where we are used to seeing only shadows; in people who are hungry, cold, imprisoned,  
betrayed, outcast. We know that you have hidden in all people the treasure of your image, but  
we confess that we sometimes obscure this with misunderstanding or fear. We see the dark  
of the hiding place, not the beauty of the treasure. We want to see the treasure as you do.

Let us be open this day to see the treasure you have hidden in surprising places. May we  
be willing to let you unlock those things which we guard in our hearts, so that we may see  
what you see and rejoice. Amen.

*Bob Wilson, Free Churches Faith Advisor to HM Prison and Probation Service and Secretary for Prison Chaplaincy*

Creator God,  
Hidden deep within each of us  
is an unending well of peace.  
Help draw out from within,  
the words, actions and ideas  
that enable us to find our place  
in your vision  
of peace, justice and hope;  
that we are all created to live and fulfil.  
It's a bounty  
that we cannot keep hidden,  
but need your hand to find. Amen.

*John Cooper, Director, The Fellowship  
of Reconciliation*



# Adoration

Prayers for services, collective worship or groups

Generous God,  
Whose hidden treasures surprise us  
as we journey through life and faith,

Open my eyes, Lord,  
to the splendour all around,  
there to be seen  
if I have eyes to see;  
there to be heard  
if I have ears to hear.

Open my will, Lord,  
to perceive you  
in the glory of everyday things  
and the intricate design of creation.

Open my will, Lord,  
to be eager to follow your command  
and do all I can to guard and protect  
all that you have given.

Open my mouth, Lord,  
let me sing your glory  
and speak your praise. Amen.  
*Andy Fyall, Chair, Nottingham  
and Derby District*

Lord God, as we come to you in the bright  
dawn of a new day, you warm us with your  
love; we worship you.

As we turn to you in the busyness and  
beauty of the day, you are beside us; we  
praise you.

As we draw close to you in the quiet times  
of our lives, you are near to us in the  
stillness; we find our peace in you.

As we come to you at the ending of the day,  
your light still shines in the darkness; and  
we rest in you. Amen.  
*Catherine James, local preacher,  
Derby Circuit*



*Photo: Bruce Thompson*

# Confession

## Prayers for services, collective worship or groups

Lord, sometimes the best treasures are those that are hidden in plain sight.  
Forgive us when we ignore or take for granted the treasures you offer and  
instead focus on what we are missing, on what we do not have, rather than on  
your amazing grace.

Forgive us when we miss the angels you put in our paths – the neighbour with a  
friendly smile who reminds us we're not alone; the stranger who nods their head  
as we walk past them in the park, acknowledging our existence; the person  
who gives up their seat on the bus or train despite having had a weary day  
themselves; the child who reminds us of the joy of play; the artist or poet who  
captures all our feelings where words fail us...

And thank you, Lord, for the greatest treasure of all, hidden in our hearts – the  
knowledge of your love and forgiveness. A treasure which changes lives and  
which, when shared, grows stronger and not weaker.

May we always be thankful for all your treasures, hidden and visible, made  
known to us in the power of your Holy Spirit. Amen.

*Ruth Childs, presbyter, Black Country Circuit*

When humble shepherds kneel before you,  
We see that everyone is important and has something to offer.  
Forgive us when we choose who is important and who is not.

When visitors from the East kneel before you,  
We see that wisdom comes in unfamiliar viewpoints.  
Forgive us when we prefer what we already know, to new revelations of love.

When disciples leave nets to follow you,  
We see how extraordinary the ordinary can be.  
Forgive us when we place limits on what love can do.

When a carpenter offers abundant life,  
We see the beyond, in the midst of life.  
Forgive us when we miss the sacred in the everyday.

Give us new eyes that catch glimpses of glory.  
*Sue Jones, local preacher, Exeter Coast and Country Circuit*

# Thanksgiving

Prayers for services, collective worship or groups

God is love:  
And where love is, God is there.

We give thanks for the hidden acts of love:

For gracious words that lower tensions,  
For hopeful words that temper grief,  
For comforting words that soften pain,  
Thanks be to God, for God is love:  
And where love is, God is there.

For pardon privately sought and given,  
For mediation that works through misunderstandings,  
For injuries forgiven and friends reconciled,  
Thanks be to God, for God is love:  
And where love is, God is there.

For acts of generosity performed without fanfare,  
For needs secretly met and hardship quietly relieved,  
For acts of kindness assuring someone that they are loved,  
Thanks be to God, for God is love:  
And where love is, God is there.

In many ways that others never see,  
Without publicity or thought of any reward,  
Sometimes without invoking God's name,  
God's love is made known.  
Thanks be to God, for God is love:  
And where love is, God is there. Amen.

*Jonathan Hustler, Secretary of the Methodist Conference*

Dear God,  
Thank you for...  
The sight of colourful flowers.  
The smell of sweet perfume.  
The sound of crashing waves.  
The feel of my mum's hugs.  
The taste of chicken and chips.  
Thank you for these hidden treasures. Amen.  
*Reena, Year 2, Radcliffe Hall CE/Methodist Primary School*

# Prayers to live out Our Calling of the Methodist Church in Britain

The calling of the Methodist Church is to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission.

These prayers are for different activities across the Church that aim to fulfil Our Calling.

## Growing in faith

We pray for children and young people in our churches and communities. Let them not be hidden away, but help us recognise the treasure they are to our churches. May we take the time to really listen to them, hearing their needs and showing them the love of Christ. May our churches be places where different generations can learn, share and grow in faith together.

Help us to reach out in partnership to local schools, offering support that enables all to flourish. And we pray that at 3Generate, children and young people will find a place where they can tune in to God and feel empowered to live as active disciples in the world.

[methodist.org.uk/flourishschools](http://methodist.org.uk/flourishschools)  
[methodist.org.uk/3Gen](http://methodist.org.uk/3Gen)

## Living out Our Calling

God who calls us, you are always already ahead of us yet meet us graciously where we are. We know your name because of your generosity, the riches of your grace and unfailing love.



Photo: SolStock/ Getty images

May we know, in all our uncertainties, your faithful presence which travels to the earth's end and beyond. As we face the future together, however challenging, may we know it as your future and know that your rich promise to be with us is the greatest gift of all.

May our ministries be blessed with the knowledge that we are fully known and loved. May the shared work of your kingdom, announced by Jesus as justice and freedom, inspire us, hold us and give us strength. Amen.

[methodist.org.uk/vocations](http://methodist.org.uk/vocations)



## Challenging injustice

As we pray, stir up your love, rekindle your hope and strengthen our spirits that we might be to the world as you are to us: a loving, gracious, merciful humble servant. Where there is conflict in our churches, communities and the world...  
We pray that we may actively work for peace.

As we see your creation wantonly marred and changed for personal and corporate gain...  
We pray our actions may renew the environment.

Where one person's wealth denies another's opportunity...  
We pray for a just economy where all flourish.

When our politics appear dominated by self-service, lies and personal attacks...  
We pray all may listen, serve and speak truth in love.

As legislation seeks to barricade our borders...  
We pray for a welcome for your children in need.

In our society where privilege is too easily heard...  
We pray that we may listen to people who are marginalised.  
In the name of the life-giving God. Amen.

[jointpublicissues.org.uk](http://jointpublicissues.org.uk)

God of justice,  
You long for everyone to have life in all its fullness;  
Help us to refuse to accept inequality and poverty.

You yearn for a right relationship with people and planet  
Help us to enable a flourishing of all creation.

You created one people and one world;  
Help us to stand for justice for all people seeking refuge.

You fashioned everyone in your own image;  
Help us to resist all forms of discrimination.

You desire justice and reconciliation for all people and nations;  
Help us to be peace-builders in our lives and in the world.

May your justice roll like a mighty river,  
your righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

And may your people say Amen!

[methodist.org.uk/socialjustice](http://methodist.org.uk/socialjustice)

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## Telling others of God's love

Pray that local Methodist churches and New Places for New People will take steps deeper into the gospel – and hold together justice, evangelism, inclusion, and growth.

Pray that the Holy Spirit will break through into the Church and world that God loves, and that our spiritual assurance would lead to honesty and courage in outreach and mission.

God of love, God for all,  
your purposes are more beautiful than we can possibly imagine.

Fill us with your Holy Spirit.

Help us let go of all that holds us back.

Open our lives and our churches to new seasons of humility and faith, of change and growth.  
Shake us up with the good news of Jesus and show us the way. Amen.

[methodist.org.uk/evangelism](http://methodist.org.uk/evangelism)

# Prayers to live out Our Calling with our global partners

## Service across the world

We pray for all people who respond to the prompting of God to stand in solidarity with others across the world. We pray for those who go from Britain to serve in other nations. We pray for mission partners who face challenges, yet experience the riches found working alongside others in the company of our creative God. We pray for those who volunteer on Encounter programmes and during sabbaticals that they may be inspired by witnessing your Holy Spirit working through the people they meet and uncover the potential of the Spirit's work in their own lives.



The village of Gamcheon, South Korea.

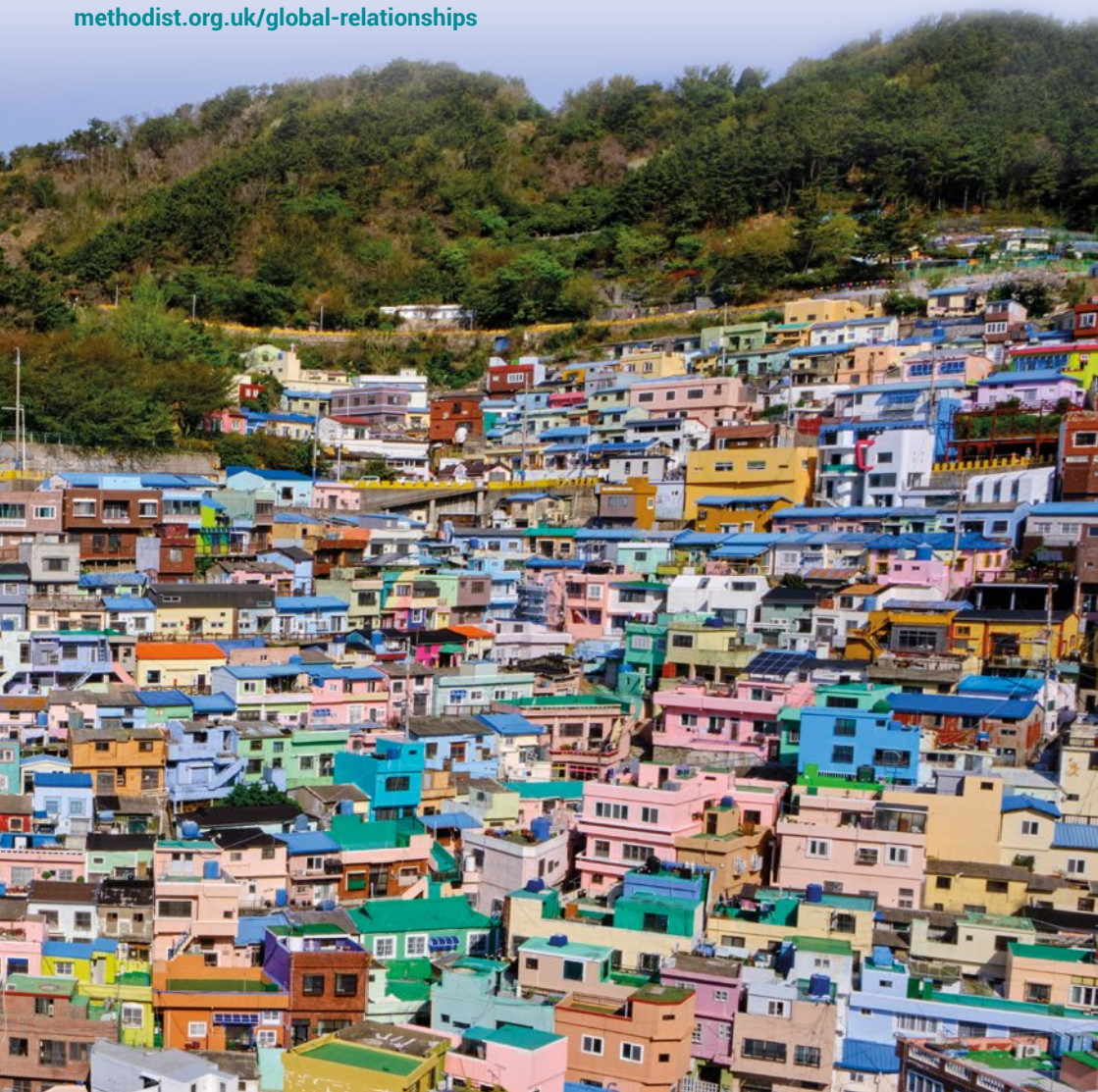
Photo: Getty images



We thank you for those young people from our global partners who come and share in 3Generate; and for Global Mission Fellows who choose to follow the light of Christ in service. We pray for all those coming from other nations to serve in Britain, in solidarity with us in this nation. May they experience you at work even in the midst of a narrative of decline in our own Church, and may their presence inspire and ignite the growth of your loving work among us.

We pray for Methodist churches, circuits and districts that are deepening their relationships with other communities around the globe through twinning. May they delight in the wonderful treasures uncovered within our global partners and themselves as they engage, and are inspired, in God's global mission. We pray for those who are learning and caring about the world as they share the Global Relationships worship resources and generously give to support the work of the many Partner Churches and organisations in other nations.

[methodist.org.uk/global-relationships](http://methodist.org.uk/global-relationships)





**Mission Partners and those serving with Partner Churches and Organisations, numbered by Day on which they feature in this Handbook**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| ② John and Sharon Harbottle (The Gambia)          | ⑦ Jonathan and Isabel Hill (Zimbabwe)            |
| ② Sylvester and Rachel Deigh (Sierra Leone)       | ⑦ Keith and Ida Waddell (Zambia)                 |
| ③ Michael Tetey (Togo)                            | ⑧ Claire Smithson (Kenya)                        |
| ⑤ Hans and Mary Van den Corput (Nigeria)          | ⑧ Daniel and Grace Pratt Morris-Chapman (Uganda) |
| ⑥ Annekathrin and Matthias Buchold (South Africa) | ⑩ Melissa Newell (Ecuador)                       |
| ⑦ Gina and Malcolm Oliver (Zambia)                | ⑪ Chris and Linda Haines (Honduras)              |





Lord Jesus Christ, Wisdom and Word of God, dwell in our hearts, we pray, by your most Holy Spirit, that out of the abundance of our hearts, our mouths may speak your praise. Amen.

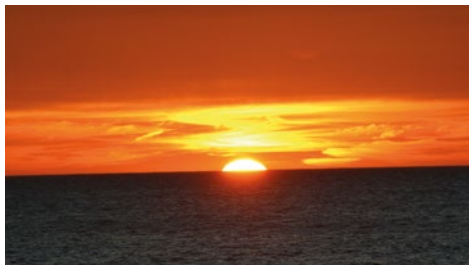
*Christina Rossetti (1830–1894)*

# Day 1

## PRAYING WITH ALL CREATION

God, we thank you for the incredible splendour of nature represented in Ecuador, a small nation, yet one of the most biodiverse countries on the planet – from the treasures yet undiscovered by humans but created by you in the Amazon Rainforest, to the visibly majestic volcanoes high in the Andes Mountains, sweeping past waterfalls on the twisting road to the Pacific Ocean and heading out to the Galapagos Islands. Help us, the Church, individuals, businesses, corporations and governments to seek these 'hidden treasures', not simply as riches to exploit, but as the life-giving wellspring of this planet of which you have made us stewards, and to discover you in them, seeing them as examples of your handiwork, creativity and love. Amen.

*Melissa Newell, mission partner, Ecuador*



Looking at the sunrise emerging over the sea we are reminded of all the hidden treasure given to us by God. Photo: Aileen Fox

Creator God,

Frost carpets the fields, sparkling on sunny winter mornings, so may your Holy Spirit be seen in us as we scatter the treasures of your love in acts of kindness.

As soft rains fall on fertile spring soil, so Lord, may our words be fruitful as we shower the treasures of your word on our communities.

May the warmth of the summer sun gladden our hearts and urge us to live our lives in praise and thankfulness for the many treasures you gift to us.

And, as autumn colours fall around us, may we seek the treasure within as we meditate on your word and strive to follow your example through every season of our lives. Amen.

*Bronwen Braidell, local preacher, Epworth and Scunthorpe Circuit*

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*

Thank you for every fallen and bruised apple with its seed for new fruit,  
for every twisted and muddy carrot with vitamins to nourish,  
for every stripped and naked tree preparing for new life in the Spring,  
for the tangled clematis that I can never control,  
for the angry wasp which stings me yet pollinates new plants,  
for the pesky brambles which in their persistence never give up.

God of grace on my journey through life as I encounter in others and know within myself –

falls and bruises,  
twisted places and muddied waters,  
vulnerability stripped bare,  
confusion and tangles,  
anger that stings,  
prickly places which will not go away –

Help me to find the hidden treasure in them all. Amen.

*Barbara Winner, supernumerary presbyter, Milton Keynes Circuit*

The day's ending heralds a rhythm of quietness pulsating from Divine love: reminding us to lay aside our burdens, and to be at ease. As the skies darken, and the light fades, so love seeks to cover that which we have focussed so intently upon, our busyness, our business, our all-consuming, feverish thoughts, and to be at peace. As the night falls, so the gift of God's presence wraps us in restoring warmth; ready for the sun's rising in the morning, and the facing of a new day with courage and hope.

*Ruth Richey, Deputy Warden, Methodist Diaconal Order*

We so often miss them;  
those hidden treasures that you share with us.  
Forgive us Lord, when we overlook the special encounters you give us: the unexpected, the beautiful, the unusual, the unlooked for. When we open our eyes and our hearts, we discover those secret places, and we praise you for remembering us, and we remember that you are the Lord of all creation. Amen.

*Sue Aspden, local preacher, Lindisfarne Circuit*

## THE BRITISH METHODIST CONFERENCE

### President

Gill Newton

### Vice-President

Kerry Scarlett

### Secretary of the Conference

Jonathan Hustler

### Assistant Secretary of the Conference

Michaela Youngson

### Conference Officer for Legal and Constitutional Practice

Joanne Anderton

### Youth President

Thomas Hart

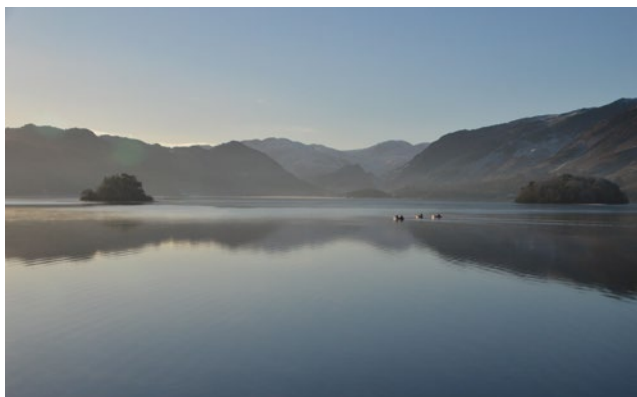
## THE METHODIST DIACONAL ORDER

### Warden

Karen McBride

### Deputy Warden

Ruth Richey



Venturing out on Derwentwater seeking the hidden treasures in the beautiful landscape. Photo: Brian Moffat

Come, O courage of God to sustain us. Come, O strength of God to protect us.  
Come, O holiness of God to purify us. Come, O love of God to transform us. Amen.  
*Thomas à Kempis (c. 1380-1471)*

## Day 2

## PRAYING WITH CHRISTIANS IN WEST AFRICA AND BRITAIN

### The Gambia

#### Methodist

#### Presiding Bishop

Bannie E F Manga

#### Mission Partners

John (d) and Sharon  
Harbottle (ed)

### Sierra Leone

#### Methodist President

Mark K Ngobeh

#### Mission Partners

Sylvester° and  
Rachel° Deigh

We give thanks for new beginnings within the Methodist Church **The Gambia**. We celebrate the advent of our new Presiding Bishop and his team. We are grateful for renewed relationships with old friends, as well as new friends that we are making.

We give thanks for the sustained grace of God for our church and nation. We acknowledge the addition of new labourers in the Lord's vineyard, as well as the zeal with which the family of the Methodist Church continues to reflect the goodness and love of Jesus in the nation of The Gambia.

We give thanks to God for the ministry of the Methodist Church to all people, especially in the fields of education, medical and dental services and agricultural work. We thank God for the many people who feel the love of God through these varied ministries of the Church.

We pray for strength and grace to carry on the Master's work in a predominantly Muslim country. We pray for renewed zeal to speak truth in the nation of The Gambia and sustained resources to continue the Church's work and ministry.

We pray to see the beauty of creation in the other – our neighbour; that the gifts and graces bestowed unto humanity may be richly harnessed, nurtured and used to make our world a better place. Amen.

*Bannie Ebenezer F Manga, Presiding Bishop, The Gambia*

Loving Lord, we ask you to bless the people of The Gambia as they live and work together.

Bless Bishop Bannie Manga and the Methodist Church as they work with their Muslim neighbours. We pray for all working in education and health, often in very difficult circumstances, and for all working in the hospitality sector. We thank you for this beautiful and friendly country. Lord, bless them all. Amen.

*Margaret Gardner, local preacher, Walsall Circuit*



Bethel Nursery, The Gambia.

Photo: Margaret Gardner



O God we come to you  
God of the displaced, who created space for all,  
God of the refugee, who carved a place for all,  
God of the poverty-stricken strangled by the cost of living,  
God of the marginalised and the ignored,  
You are God of the moon and the sun,  
the stars and all of creation.  
We come to you.

## London District

### Chairs

Nigel Cowgill

Jongikaya Zihle

When our world loses meaning, O God we come to you.  
When our faith becomes institutionalised and we lose  
our direction, O God we come to you.  
When our service through the Church is repetitive and  
draining, O God we come to depend on you.  
When our hope is stifled by our fear of the world's wars  
and greed, O God we come and we trust you.  
When our vision becomes blurred by the tears of pain,  
anxiety, lack and loss, Lord God we come to you.  
Turn our eyes to see in your ways.  
Open our ears to hear your understanding of life.  
Breathe your hopefulness into our hearts,  
so that our hands and feet and heads may think and act  
only for you, as you help us to come to you. Amen.



View of London. Photo: Alexander Spatari

In the London District we give thanks for our District commissions: the Authorised Ministries and the Social Responsibility and Congregational Development Commissions as they enable circuits and the District to think outside of the box.

We are thankful for the newly formed New Places for New People team who are framing big dreams for us to once again be a pioneering Church.

We are also thankful for the District Reconciliation group for their work helping people and churches tackle the challenges of conflict in a Christ-affirming way. May our God sustain all their commitment and hard work and uplift our administration team as they work excellently to resource and sustain the needs of all these groups; through Christ who gives us all life. Amen.

*Jongikaya Zihle, District Chair, London District*

Lord, we come before you with sadness, joy, fear and hope.  
We pray for the people and experiences within the patchwork  
of cities, boroughs, towns and suburbs that make up London.  
We pray for those in our capital who have wealth but lack time and community.  
And those who have time and community but lack economic resources.  
We pray for those who have large homes but wrestle with addictions within them.  
We pray for those who live on the streets and wrestle with similar addictions.  
We pray for those with power, who work in London's famous landmarks  
and those who feel powerless, living within the shadows of those buildings.  
Lord, meet all those in London where they are. Amen.

*Sally Rush, local preacher, Wimbledon Circuit*

We are yours, O God, for you have made us and loved us. We are yours, O God, for you have saved us and called us. Being yours, O God, let us eternally rejoice your presence.  
*Teresa of Avila (1515-1582)*

## Day 3

## PRAYING WITH CHRISTIANS IN WEST AFRICA AND BRITAIN

### Benin

#### Methodist President

Kponjesu  
Amos Hounsa

### Côte d'Ivoire

#### Methodist Bishop

Benjamin Boni

### Togo

#### Methodist President

Godson Lawson  
Kpavuvu

### Mission Partner

Michael Tetley  
(ad/m)

We give thanks for the continued efforts of the leadership of Eglise Méthodiste du Togo (EMT) in lifting up the name of Christ in **Togo** and the surrounding region, and for EMT's work with the Africa Methodist Council (Francophone Sector). We give thanks for the vision and desire to foster unity among the churches in the region.

We thank you, Lord, for the work of the Church in uplifting and supporting women and children in Togo, enabling them to live life in abundance through the various activities that the Church organises. Pour out your Holy Spirit on this work to bear fruits, we pray Lord.

We pray for people in the north of Togo where there have been attacks by terrorists. We pray for the Government as the country works to contain these attacks. Lord, protect the population in this area and bring peace and solace to those who have lost loved ones and been displaced from their homes and communities. Bring provision of shelter, Lord.

Lord, let your rain of blessings fall on your Church to produce literal food and blessings for your children. Amen.

*Michael Tetley, mission partner, Eglise Méthodiste du Togo*

Dear God,

In these times, help me to treasure your commandments and walk in your light.

Live in me: in my heart, mind and soul.

May I dwell in your presence, Lord, and be your vessel.

Help me raise up the voices of the poor, share what I have with those in need and be humble.

May the words of my mouth and the thoughts of my heart bless your name, always.

In Jesus name, Amen.

*Jamie, Selwood Academy, Frome*



Lomé, Togo.

*Photo: Christopher Walker/  
Getty images*

We give thanks for the officers who serve the South East District, circuits and local churches so faithfully: for the rich treasure of their gifts and commitment. We rejoice in the completion of the building of Emmanuel Church (Methodist/URC), Eastbourne, and pray for its mission, vision and centre for worship and service. We pray for the many ways in which Methodists are reaching out to their communities in loving service: for work with refugees, migrants and displaced people; for members of the Dover Independent Monitoring Board; for the developing partnership with the Rainbow Centre, Folkestone, as a base for community service; for the Hub for the Homeless in Gravesend. We pray for the growing work among folk arriving from Hong Kong and China across the District; for the Brighton and Hove Circuit as it works towards becoming a Circuit of Sanctuary and for Night Vision at St. Mary's Guildford reaching out to the night-time community. We bring before God the staff, governors, volunteers and students at the many Methodist schools across the District. We pray for warm spaces and welcoming places; for ways to inspire, enable and encourage the celebration of the treasure within us, among us and around us.

Gracious God, in Jesus we see your image, in all its wonder and beauty, majesty and splendour. In ourselves and in each other we reflect your image and mirror your glory, like an image in a reflecting pool.

But too often we distort your image in us. We do not see you in the wonder of the people all around us or your creation. We are blinded to the treasure within us and about us. When we do not see your glory or do not celebrate the treasure of your generous love in the wonder of our neighbours and the delight of your creation, have mercy we pray. And help us to see.

Help us to mirror your glory.

Help us to treasure the gifts and graces you lavish on us and on all creation.

Help us to see you in refugees, migrants and displaced people, as we see you when we look in the mirror, or in the still, calm waters.

And help us to be thankful. Amen.

*David Hinchliffe, District Chair, South East District*

Wherever-God, lead us to those for whom your light shines.

Whatever-God, open our eyes to all that you yearn to do.

Whenever-God, you call us to shine the light of your love into the darkness, remind us that we are never alone, but you always go with us.

Whoever-God, link us with all those who strive for justice, equality, well-being, wholeness, peace and life; that we might work as partners, for your people, in your world. Amen.

*Foundry Project, Trinity Methodist Church Woking, Wey Valley Circuit*

## South East District

### Chair

David Hinchliffe



*Playing drums at the Foundry Project,  
Trinity Methodist Church Woking.  
Photo: Foundry Project*

With all the citizens of earth, O Christ, we rejoice in the glory of your divinity. With all the citizens of heaven, O Christ, we rejoice in the glory of your humanity.

*Ephrem the Syrian (306-373)*

## Day 4

## PRAYING WITH CHRISTIANS IN WEST AFRICA AND BRITAIN

### Equatorial Guinea

#### Methodist President

Prospero David  
Sharpe Obiamo

### Ghana

#### Methodist Presiding Bishop

Paul Kwabena Boafo

We give thanks for God's protection over humankind during a pandemic that took the world by surprise and snatched away family members and loved ones. Without your mercy, it would have been impossible to see the light at the end of the tunnel. We thank you, Lord, for your saving grace and for the privilege of worshipping you together, openly and corporately. Lord, we thank you for your ever-present mercy and forgiveness towards us and we pray to offer ourselves in praise and worship to you.

We pray for God's direction as the people of **Equatorial Guinea** work diligently towards strengthening the economy of their country. We pray that citizens will be able to gain employment and sustain their families. We pray for peace in conflict-ravaged areas and war zones; where innocent people, especially women and children are made to suffer needlessly. May God Almighty touch and transform hearts so they reject fighting and embrace your everlasting peace. We pray for God's faithfulness – that we may be spiritually uplifted and see numerical growth in the Church membership. Guide us to be true followers of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

*Prospero David Sharpe Obiamo, President, Methodist Church Equatorial Guinea*

As we find a pearl hidden in an oyster,  
may we find something of Christ in those who irritate us;  
As we find beautiful grain patterns revealed in a plank sawn from a tree,  
may we find something of Christ in those with a rough exterior;  
As we find a profusion of flowers from dull seeds hidden in the ground,  
may we find something of Christ's beauty in the most unprepossessing person;  
As we find a polished shiny conker hidden in its spiky case,  
may we find something of Christ's light shining in even the most prickly character.

Remembering always that the treasure of the light of Christ is found in earthen vessels (2 Corinthians 4:7, KJV).

Amen.

*Dick Arnold, local preacher, South Petherton and Crewkerne Circuit*



View from Cape Coast  
Castle, Ghana. Photo: Ulrich  
Hollmann/Getty images



Gracious God, we give thanks for the ways in which local churches in Bedfordshire, Essex and Hertfordshire have recovered from the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic to re-establish their mission and ministry, despite the challenges posed by fuel poverty and the cost-of-living crisis. We give thanks for a new District office – spacious and well-equipped for administrative and pastoral work in support of circuits and churches. We give thanks for the completion of a major redevelopment at Bishop's Stortford Methodist Church, making the premises a beacon of community engagement. We give thanks for the work within the District to accommodate and support refugees. We pray for all those involved in projects to develop Church at the Margins or establish New Places for New People.

## Bedfordshire, Essex and Hertfordshire District

### Chair

David Chapman

God the Holy Spirit, through the ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us that the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. Strengthen and deepen our commitment to revealing your kingdom through our lives and by our prayers. Grant us, we pray, wisdom to discern signs of your kingdom in the world around us, wherever grace, mercy and truth are present. Enable us to discover, even in unexpected places, the beauty of holiness revealed in personal acts of compassion and sacrifice. Empower all people of goodwill to work towards establishing social structures and relationships that embody justice and peace. Through the faithful endeavour of us and all your people, may your kingdom come your will be done. Amen.

*David Chapman, District Chair, Bedfordshire, Essex and Hertfordshire District*

A grain of sand within a shell,  
irritates, disturbs,  
begins to grow  
layer upon layer  
until it is found,  
revealed  
in all its beauty.

Sow the seeds of your love  
in our hearts, Lord,  
that it may grow  
like a pearl,  
layer upon layer.

Reveal your love  
through us,  
until,  
with open minds and hearts  
we resolve the injustices  
of this world  
and grow your kingdom.  
Amen.

*Ruth Parrott, Co-Chair of Methodist  
Women in Britain (MWiB)*



*"Riches hidden in secret places" Isaiah 45:3b.*

*Photo: Ruth Parrott*

Blessed be God's great name to all eternity. Blessed, praised, honoured, exalted, extolled, glorified and adored be the name of the Holy Blessed One. Blessed be God beyond all earthly words and songs of blessing, praise, and comfort. Amen.

*From the Jewish Kaddish (c. 1000)*

## Day 5

## PRAYING WITH CHRISTIANS IN WEST AFRICA AND BRITAIN

### Cameroon

#### Moderator of the Presbyterian Church

Fonki Samuel Forba

### Nigeria

#### Methodist Prelate

Oliver Ali Aba

### Mission Partners

Hans and Mary Van den Corput (d/m)

Marcel and Maurice

The Ancient of Days and the Uncreated Creator! We thank you for the gift of your Son, Jesus Christ, and for your scheme of salvation for humanity. We pray in the Name above all Names that your peace and love shall overcome the world, especially **Nigeria** and Britain. By the power of your name, we come against all principalities and powers that foment strife, wars, killings, kidnappings and arson. Let the agents of the kingdom of darkness be frustrated in their planning and execution. We remember all families that have felt the hands of the wicked one and we pray that the Holy Spirit will comfort and restore them. May such wickedness never recur. We pray especially for Nigeria to fulfil your will through good governance, tranquillity and progress. Amen.

*Babtunde A Taiwo, Secretary of Conference, Methodist Church Nigeria*

Heavenly Father, Creator of the Universe look down in your tender mercy on your suffering children. Lord, you know all the atrocities committed within **Anglophone Cameroon**. Lord, no human being can qualify and quantify the sufferings of your children. Many are hurting and cry both day and night for their loved ones and their personal pain and frustration. Your children seem abandoned to the powers of darkness and destruction. No one seems to care about what happens to any of your children in this part of the country.

Lord, how long must your children endure this?

How long will they feel abandoned?

Is it not time enough for you to save your children?

Is it not time enough for you to bring the minds of these opposing powers to a common agreement?

Is it not time enough for you to bring about peace and justice among your children?

Lord, may you turn the weeping of your children into dancing!

May you turn their mourning into rejoicing!

May you turn the darkness that has befallen your children into light!

May you give them hope and a fulfilling future, in the name of Jesus the Christ! Amen.

*Fonki Samuel Forba, Moderator, Presbyterian Church in Cameroon*



Mountains of Abuja, Nigeria.

Photo: Jana Levi/EyeEm/Getty

Dear Lord,  
Thank you for being there when we are down. We thank you for being the light that guides us through our darkest times. You are the sun that shines down on us every day. You are a star that leads us in the darkness. Amen.

*Chloe, Year 6, Radcliffe Hall CE/Methodist Primary School*

## Birmingham District

### Chair

Novette Headley

We give you thanks, O God, for churches across the Birmingham District that are expressing their care for God's earth by working to become eco churches. We give thanks for the growing emphasis upon intergenerational mission and worship to renew the life of these churches. We pray that young people will see themselves as integral to the life of the Church today, and be encouraged to contribute their skills and talents to every part of the Church's work. We ask for continued prayers for the Faith-based Community Organising pilot providing a framework for outreach and mission across neighbouring districts to help circuits and churches to engage more effectively with their local communities and reach people with God's message of love and hope.

Faithful God, open the eyes of our hearts to recognise your presence in the seemingly hopeless circumstances of life. Help us not to give up hope in the treasures of love, integrity and justice even when the news is dismal; when our institutions seem powerless against the forces of indifference and destruction; when people seem incapable of doing or even imagining goodness. Deep in the darkness of the soil, O Lord, you are feeding the shoots of a new community of hope. Amongst unseen communities, you are inspiring men, women and children to dream of, and make real, a new world that is courageous, gentle and just. Help us to value your way of being that brings true richness to life – the way of Jesus Christ.

*Novette Headley, District Chair,  
Birmingham District*

Faithful God,  
We pray for those who present a spiky exterior, those who feel difficult to get close to.  
We pray for ourselves, in all our spikiness!  
We give you those times when it feels safer to retreat into our own shell...

Loving God, as you hold us,  
give us patience.  
Help us discover what lies beyond our defences.  
You made us relational beings –  
enable us to open ourselves to each other,  
to find the treasure within,  
and hold that smooth, rich beauty with wonder and with care. Amen.

*Sally Jones, presbyter, South Warwickshire Circuit*



**Hidden Treasure in the Malvern Hills.**

*Photo: Sally Jones*

All honour to you, O Lord, in the paradise of your love, in the recitation of your goodness and in the contemplation of your blessings. Unending is our song. Endless is our praise. In you is our refuge, our joy and our delight.

*Chinese Imperial Prayer (1538)*

## Day 6

## PRAYING WITH CHRISTIANS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AND BRITAIN

### Methodist Church of Southern Africa

Methodist  
Presiding Bishop  
Purity Malinga

### Botswana

Eswatini  
(formerly Swaziland)

### Lesotho

### Mozambique

Maria Linda  
Mucamba

### Namibia

Christopher Gaya

### South Africa

Mission Partners  
Annekathrin and  
Matthias Buchold  
(sd) Vincent, Albert  
and Stella

Loving God, we give thanks for life, faith and hope, for the love and joy of your people. We give thanks for music – for the ability to sing again, to express feelings, sorrows, joy and faith together as a community. We are grateful for people who never stop serving your kingdom on earth, in every small or hidden step and encounter. We pray and bring to you, God, the need for greater equality in **South Africa**, the ongoing inequality of education for poorer people and those who experience gender-based violence in their family. We thank you for your hidden treasure of unnamed, helpful people who assist the marginalised and bring help and healing. Amen.

*Annekathrin and Matthias Buchold, UMC Germany mission partners, South Africa*

Thank you, Lord, for All We Can's partners around the world who consistently and faithfully uncover treasure in people and places that others have dismissed. Thank you that potential is already present in these communities, waiting to be given a chance by those humble enough to step back and let it flourish. We pray particularly for All We Can's partner, Eagles, in **Malawi**, as they seek to put communities in the driving seat of their own transformation. May your blessing and provision be found in and through their holy work. As the Methodist people support All We Can's work, we pray also that our churches may be places where humility reigns and voices of lived experience are lifted up. Amen.

*Tim Baker, Head of Public Engagement, All We Can*

God for all, God of love, God of the small, fragile and vulnerable, May we know we are enough.

For those who tend, nurture and grow, may they feel appreciated and valued in their work.

Where there is isolation and economic marginalisation, may we see flourishing relationships across our wider communities, that all may feel loved, valued and included.

We ask for the grace to recognise within our busyness where you are already at work, growing your kingdom.

Give us the courage to share from our ordinariness and the faith to dare to believe that you can use even us. Amen.

*Sarah Hulme, Rural Mission and Ministry Officer*



Giraffes grazing in Chobe National Park, Botswana.

*Photo: Edwin Remsburg/Getty*



Vaila Isle, Shetland. Photo: David Lees

We give thanks for the work of the 11 Methodist primary schools in the Bolton and Rochdale District, nurturing and educating children with a Christian ethos. Inspire the teachers and governors as they direct and guide, and through their work sustain our children and families, particularly those living in poverty.

## Bolton and Rochdale District

### Chair

Andrew Lunn

We give thanks for the witness of our churches and people. In particular, we pray for the work with refugees in Rochdale, the football outreach in Radcliffe, the District's God for All coffee-van project and the Brick project in Wigan that works with homeless people. Strengthen all those in leadership, that in challenging times they might discern your call. May circuits seeking a renewed vision find themselves open to your loving purposes. We pray with confidence in the name of Jesus and in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*Andrew Lunn, District Chair, Bolton and Rochdale District*

Incarnate God, thank you.  
In the hardest of times, you are here.  
When we are alone, afraid or sad,  
Confused, ashamed or hurt, you are here.  
You are with us. You are here. You are.  
For your love is always present: stronger than a mighty wind yet gentler than a dove.  
You urge, lead and protect us.  
You know, embrace and nurture us.  
Searching God,  
If we turn away or close the door, you will never abandon us.  
Our past, future and present are in your keeping.  
You are nearer than our own beating hearts and closer than our breath.  
You call us by our name and we rejoice that we are held in your love. Amen.

*Darren Garfield, Deputy Chair, Bolton and Rochdale District*

Almighty God, we recognise that all good things come from you. While we feel discouraged, underserving and unworthy, you continue to shower us with treasures of love, forgiveness, healing and restoration. You remind us that when we dive into the depths of the sea, or soar to the heights of the sky and travel to lands afar, that we cannot escape your presence. So, when we feel forgotten and alone, come close to us and help us encounter your strengthening Spirit.

*Mark Mander, Royal Navy/US Navy Personnel Exchange Programme Chaplain, Royal Navy*



Cleanse our hearts, O Lord our God, that with perfect love we may hope in you and purify our consciences that with sure confidence we may pray to you; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Basil of Caesarea (c. 330-379)*

## Day 7

## PRAYING WITH CHRISTIANS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AND BRITAIN

### United Church of Zambia (UCZ)

#### Synod Bishop

Sydney Sichilima

#### General Secretary

Chipasha Musaba

#### Mission Partners

Keith and Ida

Waddell (ed/m),

Mubita

Gina (m) and

Malcolm° (av) Oliver,

Luyando and Chipo

### Zimbabwe

#### Methodist

#### Presiding Bishop

George Mawire

#### Mission Partners

Jonathan and Isabel

Hill (ed/sd)



**Moleli Goat Project Manager,**  
**Takudza Wazuva, Zimbabwe.**

*Photo: Andrew Ashdown*

We give thanks for the vibrancy of **Zambian** political life and the evident democratic diversity; for unity, peace and freedom enjoyed throughout the country and the clear rejection of tribalism and regionalism by the vast majority of Zambians. And we thank God for the continuing growth and expansion of the United Church of Zambia as it shares the gospel and makes disciples.

We pray for continued healing and reconciliation between citizens and the environment, spoilt by industrial pollution and excessive deforestation; for inclusive, just and sustainable forms of development that allow for the social and economic well-being of all the people of Zambia; and for a stronger stance by all stakeholders against gender-based violence, child defilement and early marriages.

*Keith Waddell, Education Secretary, United Church of Zambia and mission partner, Zambia*

We give thanks for people of prayer throughout the United Church of Zambia who seek God; people of power and influence in Zambia who seek God's will and people of patience, who smile and hope despite adversity and disappointment.

Whilst they wait to see their dreams fulfilled, we pray for people who love their neighbour – that the Zambian government will support them; people who lead – that they may be true to themselves and the gospel, and people who labour – like the Men's Christian Fellowship and Women's Christian Fellowship who commit themselves to the way of Jesus in sharing the good news of justice, joy and peace.

*Malcolm Oliver, supernumerary presbyter and UCZ minister*

We give thanks for the dedicated work of both clergy and laity throughout **Zimbabwe** and for the generosity of faithful people who support the vital child care work of the Methodist Church in Zimbabwe. We pray for all who work or learn in schools in Zimbabwe, usually with very little resources and for people experiencing hunger and malnutrition because of high prices of food. We ask God to bring consistent rain to relieve struggling families.

*Isabel and Jonathan Hill, mission partners, Zimbabwe*



We give thanks for God's divine protection over Zimbabwe. We thank God for the progression of the Church projects including Waddilove Farm and the resilience of people in supporting the mission of God under very difficult conditions.

## Bristol District

### Chair

Jonathan Pye

We pray for the fruition of the Epworth Housing Scheme. We ask that the ministers of the gospel in Zimbabwe will be prophetic in a country characterised by hopelessness, poverty and exclusion, among other vices.

*Martin Mujinga, General Secretary, Methodist Church in Zimbabwe*

*"It is in the grit of earth that we find the glory of heaven..."*

*H A Williams*

Like gold buried deep in the earth,  
God's gifts lie deep within us,  
waiting only to be revealed.  
Brought into the light such treasures shine with divine radiance,  
filling the world, spilling out into the lives of others,  
revealing God's presence among us.  
Lord, help us to see the hidden treasures  
in ourselves and others,  
which you have placed there for the good of all  
and so to value them that their richness may be shared,  
for the good of all and for the glory of God. Amen.



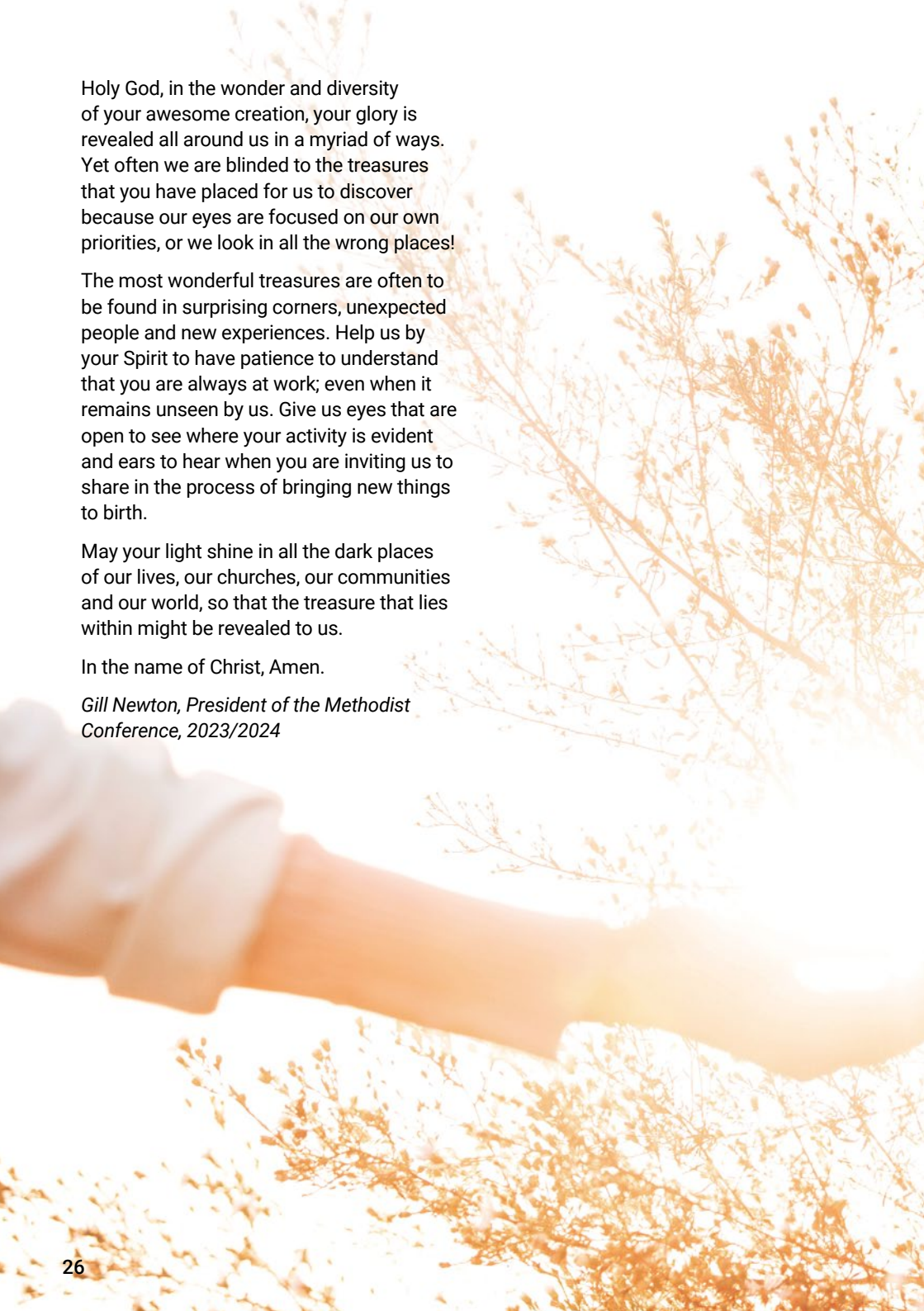
*The statue of John Wesley at John Wesley's New Room, Bristol. Photo: Jonathan Pye*

We give thanks for the many gifts manifest in the people of the Bristol District – for presbyters and deacons, local preachers and worship leaders, musicians and dancers, poets and prophets, ordinary people with extraordinary gifts. We pray for those who quietly serve others in food banks and warm hubs or in their wider communities; for those working in new housing areas, for pioneers working in circuits and in initiatives across the District; for those who serve as chaplains in education, healthcare, MHA, prisons, in the workplace and for all who support them. We pray, too, for the District's longstanding link with the Korean Methodist Church.

*Jonathan Pye, District Chair, Bristol District*

All-loving, all-knowing God,  
We praise and bless you for your hidden treasures!  
For Jesus Christ, in whom all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are revealed.  
For the Scriptures, and our conviction that there is still much more light and truth to break forth from your written word.  
For our experience, that even – perhaps especially – in times of darkness, desolation and seeming abandonment, there is growth in wisdom, spiritual flourishing and a deepening knowledge of you and of ourselves.  
For your ultimate purpose for creation, that despite its present groanings we have the assurance that it will be liberated from its bondage to decay, and paradise will be truly restored. Amen.

*Geoffrey Floyd, supernumerary presbyter, North Wiltshire Circuit*



Holy God, in the wonder and diversity  
of your awesome creation, your glory is  
revealed all around us in a myriad of ways.  
Yet often we are blinded to the treasures  
that you have placed for us to discover  
because our eyes are focused on our own  
priorities, or we look in all the wrong places!

The most wonderful treasures are often to  
be found in surprising corners, unexpected  
people and new experiences. Help us by  
your Spirit to have patience to understand  
that you are always at work; even when it  
remains unseen by us. Give us eyes that are  
open to see where your activity is evident  
and ears to hear when you are inviting us to  
share in the process of bringing new things  
to birth.

May your light shine in all the dark places  
of our lives, our churches, our communities  
and our world, so that the treasure that lies  
within might be revealed to us.

In the name of Christ, Amen.

*Gill Newton, President of the Methodist  
Conference, 2023/2024*





Great, O God is the power of your glory; great are the wonders of your works and great is the wisdom of your justice and mercy, and for all these we bless you and magnify your holy name, now and for ever. Amen.

*George Wither (1588-1667)*

## Day 8

### PRAYING WITH CHRISTIANS IN EAST AFRICA AND BRITAIN

#### Kenya (including Tanzania and Uganda)

##### Methodist

##### Tanzania Bishop

Leopold Ndaki

##### Uganda Bishop

David Ntoghonya

##### Mission Partners

Claire Smithson (d),  
Daniel<sup>o</sup> and Grace

Pratt Morris-  
Chapman (ed)

Kwame, John, Anna  
and Ewuradwowa

##### Rwanda

##### Methodist

##### Presiding Bishop

Samuel Kayinamura

We give thanks for the way the Methodist people have generously helped people suffering from the prolonged drought in **Kenya**. We pray that the next two rainy seasons will enable people to grow sufficient crops to sustain themselves and their animals.

Servant King, we pray for the Methodist Church in Kenya, that there will be humility in leadership and integrity in managing its institutions. We pray that we may indeed know that you are the Lord who calls us by name, and that we will follow the way that you lead us, Lord God. Let us not be misled by the treasures and riches of this world but seek those given by you.

*Claire Smithson, mission partner, Kenya*

We give thanks for the beauty of the **Rwandan** countryside. We thank God for the deepening of relationships between the Free Methodist Church of Rwanda and the Methodist Church in Britain as we each offer the other the hand of fellowship through the well-established link between the Free Methodist Church and the Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District and the connection with Queen's Foundation, Birmingham.

We pray for the ministers of the Free Methodist Church and the staff of the Department of Theology at Kibogora Polytechnic; pastors seeking to deepen their theological knowledge through their studies whilst continuing to fulfil their calling; and for the young students hoping to enter into ministries, lay or ordained, in service to education or the Church.

*Wendy Kilworth-Mason, mission partner, Lecturer in Department of Theology, Kibogora Polytechnic*



Kibogora Polytechnic, Rwanda.

*Photo: Bunmi Olayisade*

Here is a space Lord – what I choose to fill it with is up to me. But if I lay my burdens down for a few moments and seek the bright sunshine of your presence, then your presence in my inner being can transform the time and place, however ordinary and routine it may be. Lord, do this for me now. Amen.

*Paul Wardle, local preacher, Tiverton and Wellington Circuit*

We give thanks for the successful coming together of the two former Synods into Wales Synod Cymru and its vision to encourage mission and ministry across Wales in both languages; the ongoing but still innovative work of the Methodist Amelia Trust Farm in the Vale of Glamorgan and the new Llanddysgwyr project developing work with Welsh language learners in north east Wales.

We pray for the new Chair, Andrew Charlesworth, as he comes to minister alongside Jennifer Hurd and the rest of the Synod Leadership Team; the continuing and creative work of chaplains at universities and other higher education institutions across Wales and the opportunities both to develop new and re-shape existing pioneer projects as part of the Church-wide strategy for evangelism and growth, God for All.

Heavenly Father,  
In the darkness of grief, may the light of Christ shine.  
In the darkness of suffering, may the light of Christ shine.  
In the darkness of oppression, may the light of Christ shine.  
In the darkness of captivity, may the light of Christ shine.  
In the darkness of our lives, may the light of Christ shine.  
When all seems lost, when hope is hard to find,  
when we cannot understand the way things are,  
may the light of Christ shine. Amen.

*Andrew Charlesworth, District Chair, Wales Synod Cymru*

O Dduw ein Creawdwr,  
fel y glöwr yn cloddio dan ddaear  
a'r chwarelwr yn naddu wyneb y llechen,  
rwyf ti ar waith i ddarganfod trysor mewn  
mannau annisgwyl.  
Boed i ni gynhyrchu rhywbeth hardd i ti,  
hyd yn oed o'r tywyllwch a'r oerni,  
fel y dygom ogoniant i'th enw  
ac er mwyn dyfodiad dy Deyrnas. Amen.

O God our Creator,  
like the collier digging underground  
and the quarryman chiselling the face of  
the slate,  
you are at work to discover treasure in  
unexpected places.  
May we produce something beautiful for you,  
even from the darkness and the coldness,  
that we may bring glory to your name  
and for the sake of the coming of your  
kingdom. Amen.

*Jennifer Hurd, District Chair, Wales Synod Cymru*

**Yr Eglwys  
Fethodistaidd Yng  
Nghymru**

**The Methodist  
Church in Wales**

**Wales Synod  
Cymru Chairs**

**Jennifer Hurd  
Andrew Charlesworth**



**Amelia Trust Farm's resident donkey.**

*Photo: Amelia Trust Farm*

Let our chief conversation be with you, O God; let the joy of our salvation be your grace and the heart of our faith be your presence. Amen.

*Madame Jeanne Guyon (1648-1717)*

## Day 9

## PRAYING WITH CHRISTIANS IN SOUTH AMERICA AND BRITAIN

### Argentina

#### Methodist Bishop

Américo Jara Reyes

### Brazil

#### Methodist Bishop

Luiz Vergilio Batista da Rosa

### Colombia

#### Head of Church

Luis Andres Caicedo Guayara

### Venezuela

#### Methodist President

Francisco Mendoza Bracho

We give thanks for the Iglesia Colombiana Metodista's work amongst the Zenu indigenous communities in the Caribbean coastal area and the deep faith of the people in these communities. We thank God for their welcome to the Venezuelan women and children migrants and the teaching programme for the children in the local Chinese restaurant in Santa Marta. We give thanks, especially, for the Methodist Clinic in the Zenu indigenous community in Brisa del Mar and for Pastor Miguel who works as both pastor and nurse.

We pray for the women and children's ministry, working to bring dignity and rights to those discriminated against; the communities who are struggling to cope with extreme weather due to climate change and that more people may come to know Christ through the work of the Methodist Church in **Colombia**.

*Ruth Parrott, Co-Chair, Methodist Women in Britain*

We give thanks for the strong ties between Methodists in Cumbria and **Argentina**, an active partnership since 2005. We are thankful for the vibrant faith of the Argentinian Church and their generous engagement with local community needs, consistently working for justice, especially for the poor. We thank God for the opportunity to share the living out of our faith in different contexts.

We pray for Bishop Américo Jara Reyes and for the developing link between primary schools in Langwathby, Cumbria and UCEL Rosario, sharing school values and activities. We especially pray for the relationship between Methodist Women in Britain and its Argentinian equivalent, FeMMA, and the projects, supported by MWiB, to enhance employment opportunities for indigenous women.

*Joan Wager, member of the Cumbria-Argentina Methodist Partnership Steering Group*

Dear Lord, We thank you for the word and for everything we have. We thank you that you're there for us when things are tough. We thank you for giving us a second chance when we do something wrong. We thank you for those people who cheer us on and give us confidence. Amen.

*Claudia, Year 4, Aspall Church Primary School*



Pastor Nubia,  
Sincellejo, Colombia.  
Photo: Sandra Lopez



We thank you for the revealed and hidden treasures of Cumbria – its people and places, offerings and endeavours.

## Cumbria District

### Chair

James Tebbutt

We pray for the ecumenical Cumbrian and Argentinian link-partnership; for conversations between districts and circuits, and the new East Cumbria Circuit. Where change unsettles, bring understanding and grace; where possibility inspires, embolden us; however called, may we follow daily, care deeply, tread gently and speak boldly.

We pray for the Youth Work Coordinator and for young people engaging with 3Generate; for the New Places for New People pilot project; and for continued faithfulness and service of lay workers, ministers, officers, members and friends. For all your treasures, hidden and seen, of youth and age, of conviction or tentative discerning, thank you, generous God.



A gathering of the District Cumbria-Argentina Partnership link group. Photo: Mark Kensett

Sensitive God, as you hid your face from those who went before, knowing that we cannot grasp the full measure of your glory, thank you that so often in the quiet, hidden places you make your treasures known, teaching patient openness, and revealing depths of meaning and compassion or heights of possibility and hope. For treasures hidden in the gentle smile or kindly act, thank you. For courageous care and generosity of spirit, thank you. For persistent justice-seeking and moments of reconciliation, thank you. For all that illuminates the darkness in our own and others' lives, thank you. Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, enable us to see and share your treasure, guiding and upholding into love and life for all. Amen.

*James Tebbutt, District Chair, Cumbria District*

God of the whole world,

We give thanks for and celebrate the ministry of chaplains.

We rejoice that through this ministry, people are able to respond to your calling and join in your mission in the world.

We are encouraged by the stories from chaplains of how you are working in so many different places: isolated farms, bustling shopping centres, hectic school corridors, quiet prison cells, new housing estates, busy hospital wards, stressful workplaces, challenging places of conflict, happy care homes, lively party zones, universities, colleges, and in an endless list of places where people are.

We pray for chaplains, that they may be strengthened by your love, and encouraged by others. We pray that their daily living out of vocation, being present to and for others, is recognised as one of the greatest acts of love and faith.

We celebrate that through great small things – hidden treasures, mustard seeds waiting to burst – you nurture with love and bring growth and transformation for the redemption of the world. Amen.

*Gary Hopkins, Ministry Development Officer, Chaplaincy team*

Turn our faces towards you, O God, dearer to us than life and wiser than thought, uncountable as the sand and unfathomable as the stars, breath of all being, desire of all hearts, everywhere present, ever revealing your glory.  
*Zarathustra, Iranian prophet (7th or 6th century BC)*

## Day 10 PRAYING WITH CHRISTIANS IN LATIN AMERICA AND BRITAIN

### Bolivia

#### Methodist Bishop

Medardo

Vedia Gutiérrez

### Chile

#### Methodist Bishop

Jorge Merino Riffo

### Ecuador

#### Methodist Bishop

Alfredo Pilatuña

#### Mission Partner

Melissa Newell (ed)

### Peru

#### Methodist Bishop

Cesar Antonio

Llanco Zavaleta

### Uruguay

#### Methodist President

Evelyn Wibmer

We give thanks for life, because there is no greater treasure than human beings. We enjoy the promises of God and the truths that through God's word fill our hearts.

We thank God for blessing and protecting the Evangelical Methodist Church in **Bolivia**, and for the special ministries with children, youth, women and older adults.

We pray for God to guide the Evangelical Methodist Church in Bolivia by the Holy Spirit, for all tasks to be carried out in God's strength and blessing.

We ask that God's treasures of wisdom, knowledge and discernment help us overcome difficulties in developing the Church's ministries.

We pray particularly for growing the ministry with children, young people, women and senior adults.

*Medardo Vedia Gutiérrez, Bishop, Evangelical Methodist Church in Bolivia*

We give thanks for the unity of pastors and leaders from the United Evangelical Methodist Church of **Ecuador** (IEMUE). We thank God that the Covid-19 pandemic has been controlled, thanks to our good God who gave us strength and prompt help, and that no pastors were lost to Covid-19.

We pray for the President, and for the United Evangelical Methodist Church of Ecuador to grow, preaching the word of God.

*Luis Alfredo Pilatuña Lincango, Bishop, Evangelical United Methodist Church of Ecuador*

We give thanks for the incredible splendour of nature represented in Ecuador, for each person and tradition represented there, and your love for each one of them. We also give thanks for the perseverance of the United Evangelical Methodist Church of Ecuador, a church of only several thousand members in a population of 17 million people. We pray for the many cultures present in the United Evangelical Methodist Church of Ecuador, for guidance for the church leaders, and especially the ongoing outreach, social and discipleship work with children and young people in each church and community.

*Melissa Newell, mission partner, Ecuador*



Women from the Alto Beni community, Bolivia.

Photo: Sandra Lopez



St Aubin's Harbour. Photo: Sheila Birch

Lord God, you call us to be your witness in the world. God of wisdom, help the churches in the islands of Jersey, Guernsey, Alderney and Sark to seek out the hidden treasures that provide the resources to fulfil the tasks to which they are called. God of compassion, help all to search for hidden needs within these communities and respond with grace and love. God of unity, guide them with the power of your Holy Spirit in a quest for joint working, within and across circuits, with ecumenical partners and with other faiths. As the Islands strive to build your kingdom in an isolated context inspire and uphold them, that they may fully know they are God's people within the wider Church.

*Dawn Saunders, District Chair, Channel Islands District*

## Channel Islands District

### Chair

Dawn Saunders

Loving Lord, we lift up the Channel Islands District to you and pray that your loving, healing light would nurture the seed of your Holy Spirit that is planted deep within all believers in this place. Transform all associated with this District with your light of hope, joy and redemption, so that all would become reflections of your light in the darkness. Bring your restoring presence to the dark places in our broken islands and your love and compassion to all those walking in darkness. Help all to strengthen their faith and see your hidden treasures. Bless each person that they may share your wondrous love with every person they meet.

*Lorraine Wheeler, local preacher*

Creator God, dweller in darkness, yet as light to you; from darkness you created earth, day and night, light and dark.

Jesus, light of the world, in darkness treasures are illuminated by your light, seen brightest in darkness.

Holy Spirit, revealer of treasures; give us strength to persevere searching for the light in the darkest times of life's journey.

Holy Trinity, challenge me to befriend the darkness with your comforting presence; in time you will reveal hidden treasures that can be found amid suffering, pain and grief; then I will see things differently. Help me dig deep, mining for these treasures produced by immense pressure. Then may these treasures be stored in my heart and in heaven. Amen.

*Karen Le Mouton, supernumerary presbyter, Jersey Circuit*

Pour into our hearts, O God, the love that casts out fear, the truth that sets us free and the grace that is sufficient for all our needs. Though you are unseen, do not be unknown. Though you are hidden from our eyes let us rejoice in your beauty at the last.  
*Louisa M Alcott (1833-1888)*

## Day 11

## PRAYING WITH CHRISTIANS IN THE CARIBBEAN AND THE AMERICAS AND BRITAIN

**Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas**  
Connexional Bishop  
Everald Galbraith

**District Bishops**

**Bahamas/Turks and Caicos Islands**  
Theophilus Rolle

**Belize/Honduras**  
A Moses Benguche

**Mission Partners**  
Chris° and Linda Haines (av)

**Guyana**  
Kofia Nials

**Haiti**  
Jean-Lesly Dorcelly

We praise God for the diverse environments of **Belize** and **Honduras**, with rainforests, mountains and the Mesoamerican reef bringing many tourists and tourism jobs, especially to Belize, Roatan and Utila. We pray for people making their living from the sea – fishing and merchant seamen, and their families.

We pray for Belize, its rich cultural heritage, and its churches and church schools in the aftermath of Hurricane Lisa in November 2022. We pray for Honduras, where social issues on the mainland have driven emigration to the Bay Islands.

We pray for the bilingual Methodist schools and churches, giving thanks for their life and vibrancy, their children and young people. We pray for the spiritual and numerical growth of our congregations, preachers in training and the individual commitments made to the cause of Christ.

*Chris and Linda Haines, mission partners , Belizee/Hondouras*

Surprising God,  
Did you really know me before my mother gave me birth?  
Did you design the seed that determined who I might become?  
Was it part of your plan that I should hear your call,  
respond to the light of your love, accept your offer of living water,  
emerge from the shadows to take my place in your world?

Patient Lord, keep me bathed in your light  
and nourished by your love  
so that I might mature as your disciple, bear fruit that will last  
and bring honour and glory to you alone. Amen.

*Alison Judd, local preacher, Southampton Circuit*

Dear Lord, We thank you for the gift of life and all of the opportunities it provides.  
Help us to remember that even in the darkest times, Jesus – the light of the world – is leading the way.  
Help us to understand that we will come across dark times but they will pass and reveal hidden treasures if we follow the light of your word. Amen.

*Leah, Bedford Hall Methodist Primary School, Leigh*

Gracious God, you promise to meet every pilgrim who packs a bag of troubles and expectation and seeks you with an open heart. This day, surprise us with your presence in unexpected people, widen the horizon of our vision that we may glimpse your glory in the ordinary and everyday, and lovingly continue to challenge our insistence that we have already arrived when there are new pathways to discover. Amen.

## Chester and Stoke-on-Trent District

Chair

Helen Kirk

Across the District there is much to be thankful for as Methodist people are connecting with their communities, offering spaces to meet need and challenging injustice in creative and new ways. We pray for the continued discernment of our New Places for New People project and the work of our District Mission Enabler and District Digital Development Officer. We pray that all who lead may have the courage and capacity to hold in love the inevitable endings that some are facing alongside the possibility of the new beginnings that are emerging.

*Helen Kirk, District Chair, Chester and Stoke-on-Trent District*

I want to say thank you, God.  
Even before I was ready to acknowledge you,  
you were shaping me, and ordering my days  
into times and places where I could learn  
and grow.

So many memories of things  
that taught me, and made me who I am.  
All gifts from you.

And now, I find myself suddenly recalling  
an experience, a technique, a skill  
that had been buried deep within me for  
many a day.

But is just as fresh, and joyful, and helpful  
as it once was.

Twice-treasured, yesterday and today,  
provided by the hand of my God.

*Sue Taylor, local preacher,  
Cheshire South Circuit*



Sheep grazing in icy conditions.

*Photo: Brian Moffat*

Holy Spirit of God,  
You promise to come to us in our need.  
When we have been hurt and feel low,  
when people take advantage of us for their own ends  
it's hard to know that you are there.  
We don't always know how to pray to you.  
Help us to discover your presence in the pain and confusion.  
Give us the hope that comes from realising that you know and understand us,  
and that the deepest longings of our hearts  
are an unspoken prayer that we might be renewed by your love,  
and transformed by your grace. Amen.

*John Hellyer, superintendent, Gloucestershire Circuit and Deputy Chair of the  
Safeguarding Committee*



Come, Holy Spirit, inspiration of prophets and strength of apostles. Come, Holy Spirit, power of the Father and wisdom of the Son. Come, Holy Spirit, source of all joy and rest of the weary. Come, treasure of Majesty and mercy of the Most High. Come, Holy Spirit, come. Amen.

*Acts of Thomas, Syrian (3rd century)*

## Day 12 PRAYING WITH CHRISTIANS IN THE CARIBBEAN AND THE AMERICAS AND BRITAIN

### Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas (cont.)

District Bishops

#### Jamaica

Christine Gooden  
Benguche

#### Leeward Islands

Charles Seaton

#### Panama/ Costa Rica District

Juan Simpson

#### South Caribbean

Derrick Richards

We give thanks for the ministry of the Latin American Biblical University in **Costa Rica** over the last century, providing theological education to people from throughout the region and beyond. We thank God for the people who turn to theological education to probe their faith, construct their own theological answers and gain tools for ministry to transform their communities. We give thanks for the efforts of the Latin American Biblical University to show God's love to creation by becoming a model of ecological sustainability.

We pray for the students and graduates who are serving in communities suffering structural injustices and social exclusion. We pray that there will be greater gender justice in our faith communities and in the broader society. We pray for those communities experiencing the impacts of climate change and for those working for climate justice.

*Karla Ann Koll, Latin American Biblical University, Costa Rica*

Dear God, Thank you for sending your love through your Son Jesus. Thank you for Jesus' kindness when he fed the hungry, healed the sick and gave us hope when we had none.

Thank you for shining your light and helping us to spread gentleness. Thank you for building a beautiful world that gives us everything we need, even when we cannot always see it. Amen.

*Fir Class, Holly Hill Church School, Birmingham*



Bridge over river, Panama.

Photo: Daniel LangeEyeEm/Getty

Lord, we pray that the church would grow in its recognition and celebration of the gifts, spirituality, and wisdom of LGBT+ people. In her book *Queer Virtue*, the Revd Elizabeth Edman asks provocatively, if queerness helps her understand her Christian faith in a deeper way, how might an understanding of queerness help strengthen the faith of those Christians who don't identify as LGBT+? Holy Spirit, we ask for the grace to sit with this question, whatever our social location. We pray for learning, repentance and healing where it is needed so that we can grow in love, diversity, vibrancy and mission.

*Danielle Wilson, pastor, Inclusive Gathering Birmingham*



St Martin, Isle of Scilly – heading north. Photo: Peter Clark

When aspirations fall leaf-like around us,  
 Be the spring in our step, shooting unexpectedly.  
 Where plans slip from under us like shingle on a beach,  
 Wave us towards you; be our sure footing.  
 Skin crawling, ashamed at our latest failure,  
 Forgive us; we will hide ourselves in you.  
 If we become hedged in, wandering lost,  
 Amaze us – lead us to your right paths.  
 And when all songs are lament, sorrow our only refrain  
 Chorus us with Christ; attune us to him.  
 If we settle for listlessness, wishing life was a breeze,  
 Spirit wind, blow away those doldrums.  
 So be dear to us; when overburdened hearts break,  
 Still us to know you, Lord, for it will be worth the wait.

*Jonathan Budd, presbyter, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly District*

## Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly District

### Chairs

Loraine Mellor  
 Daniel Haylett

We give thanks for the shared work across the South West region and, in particular, for the growing relationship between the Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly District and the Plymouth and Exeter District, creating new ways of leadership, mission, evangelism, service, worship, learning and caring. We give thanks for the creativity, resilience and faithfulness of the members and ministers across the districts. We pray for the New People for New Places initiatives gathering momentum; for a new church plant in St Columb; for the growing Wednesday@1030 at Callington as they explore faith together; for the developing heritage walks project and for the many ways in which all the circuits are responding to the Warm Hearts, Warm Spaces initiative.

*Loraine Mellor, District Chair, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly District*

When darkness fills our horizons, help us to remember what Jesus taught about the hidden treasures of God's love – how a traveller to Jericho, left beaten unconscious by the roadside, was unexpectedly rescued by a marginalised stranger; how a son who had ruined his life was welcomed home through a parent's unconditional love; and how a sheep, lost on a lonely hillside, was brought to safety by the faithful care of the shepherd. So may we, whatever our needs, find help and support – sometimes where we least expect – and when human resources fail, discover the riches of God's grace and the depth of his love, holding us safe forever. Amen.

*Rachel Larkinson, supernumerary presbyter, Kennet and Test Valley Circuit*

We turn to you, O Crucified Redeemer, converted through your cross, conquering in its sign, transformed by its grace and at peace within its shadow. Amen.

*William of St Thierry (1085-1148)*

## Day 13 PRAYING WITH CHRISTIANS IN THE CARIBBEAN AND THE AMERICAS AND BRITAIN

### Cuba

#### Methodist Bishop

Ricardo Pereira Diaz

### Dominican Republic

#### Head of Church

Miguel Angel Cancú

### Puerto Rico

#### Methodist Bishop

Lizzette Gabriel Montalvo

Lord, we thank you for the service of the Methodist Church of **Puerto Rico**. We thank you for the wonderful opportunity for your people to be your hands and feet, so that they can advance your kingdom from Puerto Rico to the ends of the earth. We pray for the eradication of the violence that breaks out within communities and for the families devastated by hurricanes and earthquakes in the south.

We thank you for your presence and we ask you to remain in our midst. Through Christ Jesus. Amen.

*Lizzette Gabriel Montalvo, Bishop, Methodist Church Puerto Rico*

Dear God, I thank you for allowing us to come into your presence on this day. Thank you for the many ways you manifest your grace in our lives. Thank you because when we think that you are not present in us, you reveal hidden treasures – treasures of hope, encouragement, service, forgiveness, reconciliation, restoration, joy, peace and blessing. May we believe that you will always have hidden treasures of grace to bless our lives, families and ministries. Through Jesus Christ, we ask you. Amen.

*Lizzette Gabriel Montalvo, Bishop, Methodist Church Puerto Rico*

May we speak helpful words:

To widen a child's horizons and spark their curiosity;

To accept those who have made mistakes;

To heal those who have been hurt.

May we speak the words that open up new paths.

Let us acknowledge thoughtless words:

Those that feed tensions in our homes and communities;

Those that reveal prejudice in our assumptions;

Those that misrepresent the views of others.

May we be wise to the impact of careless words.

We pray for those, who must find the right words:

To comfort the bereaved or to say they are sorry;

To speak up for someone else or to name what is wrong.

May they feel the guidance of the Spirit; the breath of God.

*Sue Jones, local preacher, Exeter Coast and Country Circuit*



Old Tower Fort in Puerto Rico.

Photo: Cavan Images/Getty

We give thanks for the development of Church at the Margins projects at 689 in Hartlepool, Hope 4 East Cleveland, Willington Open Door and Thornaby. As the District learns what it means to reconnect with people on the margins, we pray for a spirit of openness to the future, a rootedness in place and discernment of where the Holy Spirit is leading our churches. We pray for wisdom and insight for the District Mission Enabler and the New Places for New People team, and for all those across the District who are seeking to join in with what God is doing. We give thanks for 'hidden treasures' within our churches who keep us vital and alive through their prayer and witness. We ask God to deepen our roots in a renewed tradition of Methodist discipleship.

## Darlington District

### Chair

Richard Andrew

Gracious God,  
lamp to my feet,  
light on my path.  
Where the path before me is unclear, my perception falters, your purpose is obscure  
and your good will concealed,  
Grant me...

Faith to trust that what is currently concealed will, through your grace, one day  
be revealed.  
Hope and confidence that you will be my companion, guide and confidant on the way.  
Love enough to know that one day I shall gaze upon you fully, face-to-face.

O God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who lives in eternal and  
perfect light, may your will and way be known in me and through  
me, in your community and in your world. Amen.

*Richard Andrew, District Chair, Darlington District*

O God, I look for you now  
knowing you always look out for me.  
You soothe away my stresses;  
pour healing on my tired body.  
You open my eyes to the beauty  
of all you created and gift to us.  
From fear and guilt, release me,  
for darkness is as light to you.  
My soul reaches out to you,  
you are acquainted with all my ways.  
You knew me in my mother's womb,  
I am fearfully and wonderfully made  
by your hand.  
O God, my hidden treasure, you  
work through the hands of all  
who open their hearts and let you in.  
Work in us we pray, to spread our treasure,  
your love, like jewels of your glory;  
Three in one and one in three.

*Gwynn Bamford, supernumerary deacon, Birmingham District*



Angel wood carving  
created by Richard Caink  
at Shepherds Dene Retreat  
House, made from a cedar  
of Lebanon tree with the  
text: "Do not neglect to show  
hospitality to strangers, for  
by doing that some have  
entertained angels without  
knowing it" (Hebrews 13:2).

Photo: Richard Andrew

Everywhere and always, O Christ, let us feel your presence, the gift of grace upholding us, the gift of faith strengthening us, our hope fortified and our love reborn. Amen.

Marie Bernarde Soubirous (1844-1879)

## Day 14 PRAYING WITH CHRISTIANS IN NORTH AND CENTRAL AMERICA AND BRITAIN

### The United Church of Canada

#### General Secretary

Carmen Landsdowne

### Guatemala

#### Methodist President

Tomas Riquiac

### Mexico

#### Methodist Bishop

Andres Hernandez  
Miranda

### Nicaragua

#### Head of Church

Guillermo Jesús Ríos

### El Salvador

#### Methodist President

Juan De Dios Peña

### The United Methodist Church in the USA

The UMC in the USA has 54 annual conferences supervised by bishops in 46 episcopal areas

We give thanks to God for our Partner Churches in **Central America**, who minister to their communities in challenging political and economic contexts. We thank God for the hidden treasures of local churches working tirelessly against the odds to ensure that they can offer the love of Christ in action and in preaching the gospel. We thank God for the sweet-smelling sacrifice of ministers and lay workers who have chosen to move to contexts of poverty in order to live alongside their communities, rather than in comfort. We ask you to strengthen them in their ministries. We pray, too, that you will touch the hearts of the political and economic elites in Central American countries – that they may make wise decisions that will benefit the most vulnerable people in their country. We pray that you will give them wisdom and will to tackle the root causes of migration from Central America to surrounding nations and the US, including poverty, violence and corruption. We pray for the recent wave of migrants from Nicaragua to Costa Rica. May they be welcomed, find support and advice and draw close to Jesus. In Jesus' name we pray.

*Sandra Lopez, Partnership Coordinator for The Americas*

It was so traumatic, that period of remembering, Lord,  
That season that stayed like winter for far too long,  
The darkness of that abuse was such felt experience,  
The lament, the faith questions, revisiting powerlessness, Lord.  
So deep, that desire for compassion.

It was then so risky, sharing memories, Lord  
That season of trusting others hearing that trauma,  
Diminishing the darkness, as courage to disclose continued,  
The comfort, the hope, even doubt faltered, Lord.  
So deep, that receiving of compassion.

It was so enlightening, reframing that abusive past, Lord  
That season of believing that spring was coming,  
As darkness was bathed in forgiveness and justice,  
The praise, the joy, even gratitude, Lord  
So deep, that offering of compassion to others. Amen.

*Frances Ballantyne, presbyter and member of Methodist Survivors' Advisory Group*



We give thanks for the growing richness of the East Anglia District's partnership with West Harare District in Zimbabwe; for the Pray23 initiative that is encouraging people to rediscover the importance of prayer in our relationship with God; for the ministry amongst the Deaf community across East Anglia and for the faithful and resilient ministry of the many circuit stewards across the District.

## East Anglia District

### Chair

Julian Pursehouse

Please pray for the work of school governors at the Leys School and Culford School; the training and implementation of a new District Reconciliation Team; the New Places for New People guiding team as they consider possible projects for mission across the District and the growing partnership and collaboration with Bedfordshire, Essex and Hertfordshire District.

Enfold me in the stillness of being,  
as you unfurl my true self  
to the ocean light of perfect love.

It is enough to wait,  
in a wordless silence, that grows thick  
with the expectancy of you.

I pour out myself,  
to the passing tide of goodness,  
lost in the vast ocean of love.

I am not afraid to be held and possessed,  
by the love that spoke me into being,  
and gently calls me back  
to the place of true rest.

A place both familiar and strange,  
the heart of myself, in the heart of Christ,  
caught in the living flame of holy love.

*Julian Pursehouse, District Chair,  
East Anglia District*



*The community garden of Blakeney Methodist Church, maintained by members of the chapel who volunteer their time; a hidden space of calm and rest for villagers and holiday makers alike. Photo: Aileen Fox*

Loving God, help us to see the hidden treasure in our communities. People who quietly go about doing wonderful things that make a difference, yet not seeking the limelight. Our churches are made up of individuals who tirelessly try to show your love to others, and so bring hope and help to people in need. Often these 'hidden treasures' are the catalyst behind a new project that encourages others to try something different. We bring them to you in gratitude for their selfless giving of themselves, emotionally, physically and spiritually. Amen.

*Aileen Fox, local preacher, Central Norfolk Circuit*

*Refrain: "I will give you the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places, so that you may know that it is I, the Lord."*

God of creation, who holds both light and dark in perfect balance, we pray: for those who are afraid of darkness, living in fear and isolation hiding away when the light fades; for those who cannot enjoy the sensual riches of darkness because it is used as a weapon against them; those denied access to proper lighting, forced to ride the night bus and walk the streets and refugee camps after dark; for those who need the embrace and shade which darkness offers in order to recover from sadness, loss and ill health; and for ourselves, that we may find balance and wholeness in life, light and shade, that we may be the people God calls us to be. Amen.

*Cathy Bird, superintendent, United Stockport Circuit*



# Lectionary Readings, Hymns, Psalms and A Methodist Way of Life

The following pages give the lectionary readings for each day of the year.

Alongside a Scripture reading, hymn from *Singing the Faith* (StF) and Psalm, the lectionary provides a commitment for A Methodist Way of Life (see overleaf). You can use these commitments with the prayers for each day found in this *Prayer Handbook*.

For further daily reflection with a commentary on the readings, visit *A Word in Time* at [methodist.org.uk/a-word-in-time](http://methodist.org.uk/a-word-in-time)

Major holy days and special days of prayer and observation are also included in this lectionary.

## A guide to daily prayer

Below is one possible way of using the lectionary readings, the *Prayer Handbook* and *Singing the Faith* to guide your daily prayers, along with A Methodist Way of Life.

*O Lord, open our lips, and we shall praise your name.*

**Hymn** – from the lectionary

**Psalm** – from the lectionary

**Reading** – from the lectionary, for a reflection and commentary see [methodist.org.uk/a-word-in-time](http://methodist.org.uk/a-word-in-time)

**Canticle** – from *Singing the Faith*

Sunday	796	A Song of Resurrection
	or 799	<i>Te Deum Laudamus</i>
Monday	792	<i>Benedictus</i> – The Song of Zechariah
Tuesday	798	Great and Wonderful
Wednesday	791	A Song of Creation
Thursday	797	A Song of Christ's Glory
Friday	795	Saviour of the World
Saturday	793	<i>Magnificat</i> – The Song of Mary
	or 794	<i>Nunc Dimittis</i> – The Song of Simeon

**Prayer of the Day** – presented in bold at the top of the left-hand page for the day in the *Prayer Handbook*

**Intercession and Reflection** – from the appropriate day, or from pages 2-9, in the *Prayer Handbook*

**A Methodist Way of Life** – from the lectionary

The Lord's Prayer

The Grace

# A Methodist Way of Life Examen

	
<b>Pray</b> We pray daily	<b>Worship</b> We worship with others regularly
	
<b>Notice</b> We notice God in Scripture and the world	<b>Care</b> We care for ourselves and those around us
	
<b>Learn</b> We learn more about our faith	<b>Open</b> We practise hospitality and generosity
	
<b>Serve</b> We help people in our communities and beyond	<b>Flourish</b> We care for creation and all God's gifts
	
<b>Challenge</b> We challenge injustice	<b>Tell</b> We tell of the love of God
	
<b>Live</b> We live in a way that draws people to Jesus	<b>Share</b> We share our faith

A Methodist Way of Life provides twelve commitments and practices that encourage us to respond to God's love and live a better Christian life. They are summarised in these twelve words: pray, worship, notice, care, learn, open, serve, flourish, challenge, tell, live, share. You can find more information about each one on the commitment cards for A Methodist Way of Life, and online at [methodist.org.uk/MWOL](http://methodist.org.uk/MWOL)

As Methodists, we are encouraged to reflect regularly on these twelve commitments, particularly with the Holy Spirit's guidance. 'A Methodist Way of Life Examen' is based on the Examen described by St Ignatius of Loyola. As part of your daily prayers, you are invited to use these five steps below, while focusing on one of the twelve commitments suggested for each day.

## The Five Steps

### Ask God for light

*I want to reflect on the day with God's eyes.*

### Give thanks

*I give thanks for the gift of the day and recognise when I have noticed God's presence.*

### Review recent days

*I look back over recent days, guided by the Holy Spirit, and reflect carefully on one of the twelve commitments.*

### Face shortcomings

*I face up to what I have not been able to do well, particularly reflecting on my shortcomings in relation to one of the twelve commitments.*

### Look towards the day to come

*I pray that God will guide me in the day to come and help me notice opportunities to practise one of the twelve commitments.*

## Week beginning 3 September

22nd in Ordinary Time

### Resurrection and Life

Sun	3	Matthew 16:21-28	StF 341	Psalm 26:1-8	<a href="#">Learn</a> <a href="#">Worship</a> <a href="#">Tell</a> <a href="#">Live</a> <a href="#">Serve</a> <a href="#">Notice</a> <a href="#">Care</a>
Mon	4	1 Peter 1:1-12	StF 345	Psalm 116	
Tue	5	1 Peter 1:13-25	StF 361	Psalm 117	
Wed	6	1 Peter 2:1-10	StF 677	Psalm 118:1-18	
Thu	7	1 Peter 2:11-25	StF 278	Psalm 118:19-29	
Fri	8*	Micah 5:1-4	StF 179	Psalm 45	
Sat	9	1 Peter 3:1-12	StF 606	Psalm 119:1-16	

\* Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary

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## Week beginning 10 September

23rd in Ordinary Time

### The Life of Faith

Sun	10*	Matthew 18:15-20	StF 620	Psalm 119:33-48	<a href="#">Learn</a> <a href="#">Share</a> <a href="#">Open</a> <a href="#">Notice</a> <a href="#">Worship</a> <a href="#">Care</a> <a href="#">Live</a>
Mon	11	1 Peter 3:13-22	StF 327	Psalm 119:17-32	
Tue	12	1 Peter 4:1-11	StF 520	Psalm 119:49-64	
Wed	13	1 Peter 4:12-19	StF 490	Psalm 119:65-80	
Thu	14+	Philippians 2:5-11	StF 279	Psalm 22:1-18	
Fri	15	1 Peter 5:1-14	StF 493	Psalm 119:81-96	
Sat	16	2 Peter 1:1-15	StF 492	Psalm 119:97-112	

\* Education Sunday + Holy Cross Day

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## Week beginning 17 September

24th in Ordinary Time

### The Good Shepherd

Sun	17	Matthew 18:21-35	StF 423	Psalm 103	<a href="#">Learn</a> <a href="#">Tell</a> <a href="#">Notice</a> <a href="#">Share</a> <a href="#">Serve</a> <a href="#">Pray</a> <a href="#">Live</a>
Mon	18	2 Peter 1:16-18	StF 260	Psalm 119:113-128	
Tue	19	2 Peter 1:19-21	StF 319	Psalm 119:129-144	
Wed	20	2 Peter 3:1-7	StF 157	Psalm 119:145-160	
Thu	21*	Matthew 9:9-13	StF 449	Psalm 19	
Fri	22	2 Peter 3:8-13	StF 741	Psalm 121	
Sat	23	2 Peter 3:14-18	StF 504	Psalm 122	

\* Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

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## Week beginning 24 September

25th in Ordinary Time

### In the Beginning

Sun	24	Matthew 20:1-16	StF 470	Psalm 145:1-8	<a href="#">Open</a> <a href="#">Flourish</a> <a href="#">Notice</a> <a href="#">Care</a> <a href="#">Learn</a> <a href="#">Worship</a> <a href="#">Flourish</a>
Mon	25	Genesis 1:1-13	StF 387	Psalm 123	
Tue	26	Genesis 1:14-25	StF 116	Psalm 124	
Wed	27	Genesis 1:26-31	StF 727	Psalm 125	
Thu	28	Genesis 3:1-21	StF 334	Psalm 126	
Fri	29*	Revelation 12:7-12	StF 637	Psalm 103	
Sat	30	Genesis 3:22-24	StF 663	Psalm 127	

\* Michael and All Angels

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Week beginning 1 October

26th in Ordinary Time

Original Blessing

Sun	1	Matthew 21:23-32	StF 454	Psalm 25	Tell Live Challenge Flourish Serve Flourish Share
Mon	2	Genesis 4:1-16	StF 56	Psalm 130	
Tue	3	Genesis 6:5-10	StF 733	Psalm 1	
Wed	4	Genesis 6:11-22	StF 55	Psalm 131	
Thu	5	Genesis 7:1-17	StF 71	Psalm 132	
Fri	6	Genesis 8:1-22	StF 416	Psalm 133	
Sat	7	Genesis 11:1-11	StF 205	Psalm 134	

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Week beginning 8 October

27th in Ordinary Time

The Eternal Son

Sun	8**	Matthew 21:33-46	StF 247	Psalm 80	Tell Worship Care Share Care Pray Notice
Mon	9	Hebrews 1:1-6	StF 14	Psalm 135:1-7	
Tue	10	Hebrews 2:5-18	StF 542	Psalm 135:13-21	
Wed	11	Hebrews 3:1-6	StF 107	Psalm 136:1-9, 23-26	
Thu	12	Hebrews 3:7-14	StF 502	Psalm 138	
Fri	13	Hebrews 4:1-11	StF 498	Psalm 139	
Sat	14	Hebrews 4:12-13	StF 319	Psalm 141:1-5	

\* Homeless Sunday + Prisons Sunday and Prisons Week

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Week beginning 15 October

28th in Ordinary Time

The Eternal Priest

Sun	15	Matthew 22:1-14	StF 401	Psalm 23	Share Pray Live Share Serve Learn Pray
Mon	16	Hebrews 4:14-16	StF 593	Psalm 142	
Tue	17	Hebrews 5:1-10	StF 323	Psalm 143:1-8	
Wed	18*	2 Timothy 4:15-17	StF 664	Psalm 145	
Thu	19	Hebrews 6:10-20	StF 623	Psalm 144	
Fri	20	Hebrews 7:1-3, 15-17	StF 57	Psalm 146	
Sat	21	Hebrews 7:25 – 8:6	StF 300	Psalm 147	

\* Luke the Evangelist

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Week beginning 22 October

29th in Ordinary Time

One Eternal Sacrifice

Sun	22	Matthew 22:15-22	StF 318	Psalm 96	Open Notice Worship Tell Learn Pray Care
Mon	23	Hebrews 8:7-13	StF 156	Psalm 148	
Tue	24	Hebrews 9:1-3, 11-14	StF 428	Psalm 149:1-5	
Wed	25	Hebrews 9:15, 24-28	StF 732	Psalm 150	
Thu	26	Hebrews 10:1-10	StF 208	Psalm 2:1-8	
Fri	27	Hebrews 10:11-18	StF 335	Psalm 3:1-6	
Sat	28*	John 15:17-27	StF 677	Psalm 117	

\* Simon and Jude, Apostles

## Week beginning 29 October

30th in Ordinary Time

### The Meaning of Faith

Sun	29	Matthew 22:34-46	StF 342	Psalm 1	Open
Mon	30	Hebrews 10:19-25	StF 327	Psalm 4	Care
Tue	31	Hebrews 11:1-13	StF 481	Psalm 5:1-8	Learn
Wed	1*	John 11:32-44	StF 746	Psalm 24	Care
Thu	2	Hebrews 11:32-40	StF 518	Psalm 8	Challenge
Fri	3	Hebrews 12:1-24	StF 378	Psalm 9:1-11	Share
Sat	4	Hebrews 13:1-21	StF 549	Psalm 11:1-5	Open

\* All Saints' Day

## Week beginning 5 November

31st in Ordinary Time

### The Covenant of Faith

Sun	5*	Matthew 5:1-12	StF 745	Psalm 34:1-10, 22	Challenge
Mon	6	Genesis 12:1-9	StF 51	Psalm 13	Flourish
Tue	7	Genesis 17:1-10	StF 519	Psalm 15	Tell
Wed	8	Genesis 18:1-33	StF 527	Psalm 16	Open
Thu	9	Genesis 19:15-29	StF 137	Psalm 17:1-8	Notice
Fri	10	Genesis 21:5-20	StF 540	Psalm 18:1-19	Challenge
Sat	11	Genesis 22:1-19	StF 91	Psalm 19	Pray

\* All Saints' Sunday

## Week beginning 12 November

32nd in Ordinary Time

### The God of Abraham

Sun	12*	Matthew 25:1-13	StF 188	Psalm 70	Live
Mon	13	Genesis 23:1-19	StF 705	Psalm 20	Serve
Tue	14	Genesis 24:1-9, 62-67	StF 507	Psalm 21:1-7	Learn
Wed	15	Genesis 27:1-5a, 15-29	StF 470	Psalm 22:1-18	Live
Thu	16	Genesis 28:10-22	StF 475	Psalm 22:19-31	Flourish
Fri	17	Genesis 32:22-32	StF 461	Psalm 23	Challenge
Sat	18	Genesis 37:3-28	StF 612	Psalm 100	Serve

\* Remembrance Sunday

## Week beginning 19 November

33rd in Ordinary Time

### Canaan to Egypt

Sun	19	Matthew 25:14-30	StF 460	Psalm 90	Challenge
Mon	20	Genesis 41:53 – 42:6	StF 727	Psalm 25:1-7	Flourish
Tue	21	Genesis 44:1-34	StF 625	Psalm 25:8-22	Care
Wed	22	Genesis 45:1-5	StF 686	Psalm 6	Open
Thu	23	Genesis 46:1-7, 28-30	StF 456	Psalm 1	Serve
Fri	24	Genesis 49:1-10	StF 97	Psalm 28:1-2, 6-9	Live
Sat	25	Genesis 50:15-25	StF 658	Psalm 29	Tell

## Week beginning 26 November

### Week before Advent

#### Faith in Adversity

Sun	26**	Matthew 25:31-46	StF 256	Psalm 95	<a href="#">Open</a>
Mon	27	Daniel 1:1-6, 8-20	StF 500	Psalm 30	<a href="#">Serve</a>
Tue	28	Daniel 2:31-45	StF 147	Psalm 31:1-8	<a href="#">Notice</a>
Wed	29	Daniel 5:1-28	StF 715	Psalm 31:9-24	<a href="#">Notice</a>
Thu	30f	John 1:35-42	StF 660	Psalm 27	<a href="#">Share</a>
Fri	1g	Daniel 6:6-23	StF 457	Psalm 32	<a href="#">Learn</a>
Sat	2	Daniel 7:1-27	StF 340	Psalm 33:1-22	<a href="#">Learn</a>

\* Christ the King + Women against Violence Sunday f Andrew, Apostle g World AIDS day

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## Week beginning 3 December

### 1st of Advent

#### God's Word at Work

Sun	3	Mark 13:24-27	StF 317	Psalm 80	<a href="#">Worship</a>
Mon	4	1 Thessalonians 1:1-7	StF 412	Psalm 72	<a href="#">Pray</a>
Tue	5	1 Thessalonians 1:8-10	StF 418	Psalm 34:1-10	<a href="#">Share</a>
Wed	6	1 Thessalonians 2:1-8	StF 445	Psalm 34:11-22	<a href="#">Share</a>
Thu	7	1 Thessalonians 2:9-13	StF 503	Psalm 36:5-12	<a href="#">Serve</a>
Fri	8*	Song of Solomon 2:1-4	StF 199	Psalm 45	<a href="#">Tell</a>
Sat	9	1 Thessalonians 3:1-5	StF 520	Psalm 39	<a href="#">Tell</a>

\* Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

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## Week beginning 10 December

### 2nd of Advent

#### The Return of Christ

Sun	10	Mark 1:1-8	StF 233	Psalm 85	<a href="#">Share</a>
Mon	11	1 Thessalonians 3:6-13	StF 457	Psalm 42	<a href="#">Pray</a>
Tue	12	1 Thessalonians 4:1-12	StF 242	Psalm 43	<a href="#">Live</a>
Wed	13	1 Thessalonians 5:1-11	StF 637	Psalm 37:1-11	<a href="#">Worship</a>
Thu	14	2 Thessalonians 1:1-12	StF 177	Psalm 37:12-29	<a href="#">Pray</a>
Fri	15	2 Thessalonians 2:1-3a, 13-17	StF 550	Psalm 37:30-40	<a href="#">Tell</a>
Sat	16	2 Thessalonians 3:1-17	StF 459	Psalm 46	<a href="#">Pray</a>

## Week beginning 17 December

### 3rd of Advent

#### The Lord is Near

Sun	17	John 1:6-8, 19-28	StF 593	Psalm 126	<a href="#">Live</a>
Mon	18	Isaiah 40:1-11	StF 156	Psalm 38:1-8	<a href="#">Care</a>
Tue	19	Lamentations 3:22-33	StF 208	Psalm 38:9-22	<a href="#">Tell</a>
Wed	20	Joel 3:9-16	StF 210	Psalm 150	<a href="#">Challenge</a>
Thu	21	Isaiah 62:1-12	StF 188	Psalm 40:1-10	<a href="#">Learn</a>
Fri	22	Isaiah 2:1-5	StF 181	Psalm 47	<a href="#">Notice</a>
Sat	23	Proverbs 8:22-31	StF 183	Psalm 48	<a href="#">Flourish</a>

## Week beginning 24 December

### 4th of Advent and Christmas

#### Saviour and Lord

Sun	24	Luke 1:26-38	StF 213	Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26	<b>Serve Worship Challenge Share Challenge Tell Worship</b>
Mon	25*	Luke 2:1-20	StF 195	Psalm 110	
Tue	26+	Acts 7:51-60	StF 747	Psalm 13	
Wed	27f	Romans 1:1-17	StF 190	Psalm 116	
Thu	28g	Matthew 2:13-18	StF 218	Psalm 124	
Fri	29	John 21:19b-25	StF 366	Psalm 117	
Sat	30	Isaiah 12:1-6	StF 197	Psalm 132	

\* Christmas Day + Stephen, Martyr f John, Evangelist g Holy Innocents

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## Week beginning 31 December

### 1st of Christmas

#### Glory to God

Sun	31	Luke 2:22-40	StF 376	Psalm 148	<b>Care Notice Live Learn Serve Pray Open</b>
Mon	1*	Matthew 1:18-25	StF 358	Psalm 8	
Tue	2	2 Timothy 1:8-10	StF 350	Psalm 96:11-13	
Wed	3	John 1:1-18	StF 318	Psalm 147	
Thu	4	Philippians 2:5-11	StF 512	Psalm 103	
Fri	5	1 John 2:22-28	StF 418	Psalm 146	
Sat	6+	Matthew 2:1-12	StF 225	Psalm 72	

\* Naming and Circumcision of Jesus + Epiphany of the Lord

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## Week beginning 7 January

### Week after Epiphany, 1st in Ordinary Time

#### The Waters of Salvation

Sun	7**	Mark 1:4-11	StF 233	Psalm 29	<b>Flourish Pray Tell Notice Learn Flourish Live</b>
Mon	8	Isaiah 43:1-7	StF 440	Psalm 50:1-15	
Tue	9	Acts 10:34-43	StF 348	Psalm 51	
Wed	10	Hebrews 1:1-12	StF 199	Psalm 53	
Thu	11	Joshua 3:1-17	StF 744	Psalm 54	
Fri	12	Isaiah 55:1-11	StF 401	Psalm 55:1-8	
Sat	13	Romans 6:1-11	StF 538	Psalm 55:16-22	

\* Baptism of Christ + Covenant Sunday

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## Week beginning 14 January

### 2nd in Ordinary Time

#### Messianic Ministry

Sun	14	John 1:43-51	StF 350	Psalm 139	<b>Live Notice Serve Share Pray Open Learn</b>
Mon	15	Luke 4:16-30	StF 239	Psalm 56	
Tue	16	Luke 4:31-44	StF 653	Psalm 57:1-3, 7-11	
Wed	17	Luke 5:1-11	StF 558	Psalm 61	
Thu	18*	Luke 5:12-16	StF 448	Psalm 63:1-8	
Fri	19	Luke 5:17-26	StF 258	Psalm 65	
Sat	20	Luke 5:27-39	StF 660	Psalm 66:1-12	

\* Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity begins

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## Week beginning 21 January

### 3rd in Ordinary Time

#### Kingdom Priorities

Sun	21	Mark 1:14-20	StF 355	Psalm 62	<b>Tell</b>
Mon	22	Luke 6:1-11	StF 244	Psalm 150	<b>Live</b>
Tue	23	Luke 6:12-16	StF 402	Psalm 68:1-6, 32-35	<b>Pray</b>
Wed	24	Luke 6:17-31	StF 650	Psalm 69:1-18	<b>Serve</b>
Thu	25*	Galatians 1:11-24	StF 450	Psalm 67	<b>Tell</b>
Fri	26	Luke 6:32-38	StF 513	Psalm 69:30-36	<b>Care</b>
Sat	27+	Luke 6:39-49	StF 492	Psalm 70	<b>Live</b>

\* Conversion of Paul + Holocaust Memorial Day

## Week beginning 28 January

### 4th in Ordinary Time

#### Healing Faith

Sun	28	Mark 1:21-28	StF 251	Psalm 111	<b>Learn</b>
Mon	29	Luke 7:1-10	StF 655	Psalm 72	<b>Serve</b>
Tue	30	Luke 7:11-17	StF 306	Psalm 71:1-16	<b>Care</b>
Wed	31	Luke 7:18-23	StF 264	Psalm 71:17-24	<b>Tell</b>
Thu	1	Luke 7:24-30	StF 247	Psalm 73:1-14	<b>Learn</b>
Fri	2*	Luke 2:22-32	StF 232	Psalm 24	<b>Care</b>
Sat	3	Luke 7:31-35	StF 364	Psalm 73:15-28	<b>Open</b>

\* Presentation of Christ in the Temple, Candlemas

## Week beginning 4 February

### 5th in Ordinary Time

#### Forgiveness and Reconciliation

Sun	4	Mark 1:29-39	StF 653	Psalm 147	<b>Share</b>
Mon	5	Luke 7:36-50	StF 454	Psalm 74:1-17	<b>Open</b>
Tue	6	Luke 8:1-3	StF 251	Psalm 74:18-23	<b>Share</b>
Wed	7	Luke 8:4-15	StF 470	Psalm 75:1-7	<b>Live</b>
Thu	8	Luke 8:16-18	StF 59	Psalm 76	<b>Pray</b>
Fri	9	Luke 8:19-21	StF 685	Psalm 77	<b>Care</b>
Sat	10	Luke 8:22-25	StF 241	Psalm 78:1-7	<b>Flourish</b>

## Week beginning 11 February

### Week before Lent

#### Repentance and Renewal

Sun	11*	Mark 9:2-13	StF 259	Psalm 50:1-6	<b>Notice</b>
Mon	12	Exodus 24:12-18	StF 560	Psalm 80	<b>Learn</b>
Tue	13	2 Peter 1:16-21	StF 626	Psalm 81	<b>Worship</b>
Wed	14+	Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21	StF 236	Psalm 51	<b>Pray</b>
Thu	15	2 Corinthians 3:12 – 4:2	StF 134	Psalm 84	<b>Live</b>
Fri	16	John 12:27-36a	StF 397	Psalm 85	<b>Pray</b>
Sat	17	Luke 9:28-36	StF 261	Psalm 86:1-13	<b>Worship</b>

\* Racial Justice Sunday + Ash Wednesday



## Week beginning 18 February

### 1st in Lent

#### Justice for All

Sun	18	Mark 1:9-15	StF 240	Psalms 25:1-10	<b>Tell Flourish Open Challenge Worship Challenge Worship</b>
Mon	19	Isaiah 55:1-13	StF 401	Psalms 87	
Tue	20	Isaiah 56:1-8	StF 237	Psalms 89:1-13	
Wed	21	Isaiah 58:1-12	StF 238	Psalms 89:14-21	
Thu	22	Isaiah 60:1-7	StF 706	Psalms 90	
Fri	23	Isaiah 60:8-16	StF 353	Psalms 91	
Sat	24	Isaiah 60:17-22	StF 748	Psalms 92	

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## Week beginning 25 February

### 2nd in Lent

#### Mercy and Salvation

Sun	25	Mark 8:31-38	StF 359	Psalms 22:23-31	<b>Challenge Challenge Tell Worship Tell Serve Pray</b>
Mon	26	Isaiah 61:1-7	StF 404	Psalms 93	
Tue	27	Isaiah 61:8-11	StF 693	Psalms 95	
Wed	28	Isaiah 62:1-12	StF 690	Psalms 96	
Thu	29	Isaiah 63:1-9	StF 103	Psalms 97	
Fri	1*	Isaiah 65:17-25	StF 503	Psalms 98	
Sat	2	Isaiah 66:10-13	StF 117	Psalms 99	

\* World Day of Prayer

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## Week beginning 3 March

### 3rd in Lent

#### The Call to Righteousness

Sun	3	John 2:13-22	StF 247	Psalms 19:1-6	<b>Challenge Care Flourish Care Worship Pray Open</b>
Mon	4	Jeremiah 1:1-10	StF 696	Psalms 100	
Tue	5	Jeremiah 2:1-13	StF 457	Psalms 102:1-11	
Wed	6	Jeremiah 3:11-18	StF 672	Psalms 103	
Thu	7	Jeremiah 7:1-11	StF 455	Psalms 104:1-23	
Fri	8	Jeremiah 7:21-28	StF 550	Psalms 104:24-35	
Sat	9	Jeremiah 11:18-20	StF 282	Psalms 105:1-11	

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## Week beginning 10 March

### 4th in Lent

#### Aflame with Faith

Sun	10*	John 3:14-21	StF 361	Psalms 107:1-3, 17-22	<b>Live Notice Learn Challenge Worship Share Flourish</b>
Mon	11	Jeremiah 13:1-11	StF 511	Psalms 110	
Tue	12	Jeremiah 18:1-6	StF 546	Psalms 111	
Wed	13	Jeremiah 18:18-20	StF 623	Psalms 112	
Thu	14	Jeremiah 20:7-13	StF 271	Psalms 113	
Fri	15	Jeremiah 26:1-24	StF 270	Psalms 38:9-16	
Sat	16	Jeremiah 28:1-17	StF 157	Psalms 38:10-22	

\* Mothering Sunday

## Week beginning 17 March

### Passion Week

#### Love Everlasting

Sun	17	John 12:20-33	StF 306	Psalm 119:9-16	<b>Worship Challenge Notice Care Live Flourish Learn</b>
Mon	18	Jeremiah 30:1-11	StF 644	Psalm 19:7-14	
Tue	19*	Matthew 1:18-25	StF 219	Psalm 89:24-37	
Wed	20	Jeremiah 30:12-17	StF 269	Psalm 114	
Thu	21	Jeremiah 30:18-22	StF 32	Psalm 130	
Fri	22	Jeremiah 31:1-13	StF 443	Psalm 18:1-6	
Sat	23	Jeremiah 31:31-34	StF 87	Psalm 18:25-30	

\* Joseph of Nazareth

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## Week beginning 24 March

### Holy Week

#### Suffering and Glory

Sun	24	Mark 15:1-39	StF 277	Psalm 31:9-16	<b>Care Pray Flourish Live Serve Challenge Learn</b>
Mon	25	John 12:1-11	StF 278	Psalm 36	
Tue	26	John 12:20-36	StF 280	Psalm 27	
Wed	27	John 12:44-50	StF 289	Psalm 70	
Thu	28*	John 13:1-17, 31b-35	StF 268	Psalm 116	
Fri	29+	Isaiah 52:13 – 53:12	StF 273	Psalm 22	
Sat	30f	John 19:38-42	StF 292	Psalm 4	

\* Maundy Thursday + Good Friday f Holy Saturday

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## Week beginning 31 March

### Easter Week

#### Lord of Life

Sun	31*	Mark 16:1-18	StF 298	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24	<b>Worship Notice Tell Live Pray Care Share</b>
Mon	1	Revelation 1:12-18	StF 293	Psalm 135	
Tue	2	Luke 24:1-12	StF 294	Psalm 136	
Wed	3	Matthew 28:16-20	StF 299	Psalm 114	
Thu	4	1 Corinthians 15:20-28	StF 303	Psalm 117	
Fri	5	Acts 3:11-16	StF 304	Psalm 66	
Sat	6	John 11:17-44	StF 311	Psalm 145	

\* Easter Day

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## Week beginning 7 April

### 2nd of Easter

#### Salvation by Faith

Sun	7	John 20:19-31	StF 314	Psalm 133	<b>Notice Serve Pray Worship Open Challenge Tell</b>
Mon	8*	Luke 1:26-38	StF 187	Psalm 40	
Tue	9	Romans 1:1-7	StF 9	Psalm 115	
Wed	10	Romans 1:16-25	StF 33	Psalm 7:1-11	
Thu	11	Romans 2:1-11	StF 715	Psalm 85	
Fri	12	Romans 3:21-30	StF 499	Psalm 42	
Sat	13	Romans 4:1-8	StF 458	Psalm 43	

\* Annunciation of the Lord, trans.

## Week beginning 14 April

### 3rd of Easter

#### Alive in Christ

Sun	14	Luke 24:36b-48	StF 347	Psalm 30	<b>Tell</b>
Mon	15	Romans 4:13-25	StF 353	Psalm 118:19-29	<b>Learn</b>
Tue	16	Romans 5:1-11	StF 438	Psalm 119:1-16	<b>Share</b>
Wed	17	Romans 5:12-21	StF 334	Psalm 119:17-32	<b>Live</b>
Thu	18	Romans 6:1-14	StF 515	Psalm 119:33-48	<b>Pray</b>
Fri	19	Romans 6:15-23	StF 566	Psalm 119:49-64	<b>Serve</b>
Sat	20	Romans 8:1-11	StF 396	Psalm 119:65-80	<b>Learn</b>

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## Week beginning 21 April

### 4th of Easter

#### Alive in the Spirit

Sun	21	John 10:11-18	StF 736	Psalm 23	<b>Serve</b>
Mon	22	Romans 8:12-25	StF 704	Psalm 119:81-96	<b>Flourish</b>
Tue	23	Romans 8:26-39	StF 561	Psalm 119:97-112	<b>Tell</b>
Wed	24	Romans 9:1-5	StF 91	Psalm 119:113-128	<b>Share</b>
Thu	25*	Mark 13:5-13	StF 154	Psalm 148	<b>Notice</b>
Fri	26	Romans 9:14-26	StF 516	Psalm 119:129-144	<b>Challenge</b>
Sat	27	Romans 11:25-36	StF 326	Psalm 119:145-176	<b>Open</b>

\* Mark, Evangelist

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## Week beginning 28 April

### 5th of Easter

#### Saving Grace

Sun	28	John 15:1-8	StF 587	Psalm 150	<b>Live</b>
Mon	29	Romans 12:3-16	StF 345	Psalm 121	<b>Pray</b>
Tue	30	Romans 13:8-10	StF 255	Psalm 122	<b>Care</b>
Wed	1*	John 14:1-14	StF 248	Psalm 19:7-14	<b>Notice</b>
Thu	2	Romans 14:7-12	StF 741	Psalm 123	<b>Worship</b>
Fri	3	Romans 15:14-21	StF 355	Psalm 124	<b>Learn</b>
Sat	4	Romans 16:3-27	StF 637	Psalm 125	<b>Challenge</b>

\* Philip and James, Apostles

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## Week beginning 5 May

### 6th of Easter

#### Repentance and Return

Sun	5	John 15:9-17	StF 400	Psalm 98	<b>Live</b>
Mon	6	Amos 1:1-15	StF 700	Psalm 126	<b>Challenge</b>
Tue	7	Amos 2:1-16	StF 720	Psalm 127	<b>Flourish</b>
Wed	8	Amos 3:1-15	StF 718	Psalm 116	<b>Learn</b>
Thu	9*	Acts 2:1-18	StF 300	Psalm 47	<b>Worship</b>
Fri	10	Amos 4:1-13	StF 716	Psalm 131	<b>Challenge</b>
Sat	11	Amos 5:1-17	StF 715	Psalm 132	<b>Tell</b>

\* Ascension Day

## Week beginning 12 May

### 7th of Easter

#### Vision and Judgement

Sun	12	John 17:6-19	StF 315	Psalm 1	<a href="#">Learn</a>
Mon	13	Amos 5:18-24	StF 228	Psalm 133	<a href="#">Flourish</a>
Tue	14*	Acts 1:15-26	StF 664	Psalm 15	<a href="#">Notice</a>
Wed	15	Amos 6:1-14	StF 714	Psalm 134	<a href="#">Live</a>
Thu	16	Amos 7:1-17	StF 157	Psalm 135:1-7	<a href="#">Serve</a>
Fri	17	Amos 8:1-14	StF 703	Psalm 135:13-21	<a href="#">Challenge</a>
Sat	18	Amos 9:1-15	StF 732	Psalm 138	<a href="#">Learn</a>

*Christian Aid Week \* Matthias, Apostle*

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## Week beginning 19 May

### Pentecost

#### The Promised Spirit

Sun	19*	Acts 2:1-21	StF 391	Psalm 104	<a href="#">Challenge</a>
Mon	20	Joel 2:21-32	StF 370	Psalm 18	<a href="#">Flourish</a>
Tue	21	John 7:37-39	StF 375	Psalm 33	<a href="#">Notice</a>
Wed	22	2 Corinthians 3:4-18	StF 378	Psalm 100	<a href="#">Worship</a>
Thu	23	Genesis 11:1-9	StF 381	Psalm 146	<a href="#">Open</a>
Fri	24+	Galatians 4:1-7	StF 454	Psalm 130	<a href="#">Challenge</a>
Sat	25	Exodus 33:7-23	StF 383	Psalm 24	<a href="#">Pray</a>

*\* Day of Pentecost + Conversions of John and Charles Wesley*

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## Week beginning 26 May

### Trinity

#### Enfolded in Love

Sun	26*	John 3:1-17	StF 5	Psalm 29	<a href="#">Learn</a>
Mon	27	Genesis 1:1 – 2:4a	StF 3	Psalm 73	<a href="#">Flourish</a>
Tue	28	Isaiah 6:1-8	StF 9	Psalm 86:1-10	<a href="#">Worship</a>
Wed	29	John 16:12-15	StF 32	Psalm 86:11-17	<a href="#">Notice</a>
Thu	30	Matthew 28:16-20	StF 14	Psalm 150	<a href="#">Tell</a>
Fri	31+	Luke 1:39-49	StF 186	Psalm 113	<a href="#">Share</a>
Sat	1	2 Corinthians 13:11-13	StF 16	Psalm 8	<a href="#">Care</a>

*\* Trinity Sunday + Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth*

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## Week beginning 2 June

### 9th in Ordinary Time

#### Faith in Providence

Sun	2	Mark 2:23 – 3:6	StF 149	Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18	<a href="#">Care</a>
Mon	3	Ruth 1:1-22	StF 458	Psalm 90	<a href="#">Serve</a>
Tue	4	Ruth 2:1-13	StF 475	Psalm 91	<a href="#">Open</a>
Wed	5	Ruth 2:14-23	StF 482	Psalm 93	<a href="#">Flourish</a>
Thu	6	Ruth 3:1-18	StF 488	Psalm 95	<a href="#">Learn</a>
Fri	7	Ruth 4:1-12	StF 494	Psalm 96	<a href="#">Challenge</a>
Sat	8	Ruth 4:13-22	StF 612	Psalm 97	<a href="#">Live</a>

## Week beginning 9 June

10th in Ordinary Time

### The Cost of Discipleship

Sun	9*	Mark 3:20-35	StF 403	Psalm 130	<b>Learn Live Worship Open Pray Worship Care</b>
Mon	10	Luke 9:1-9	StF 404	Psalm 136:1-9, 23-26	
Tue	11+	Acts 11:19-30	StF 407	Psalm 112	
Wed	12	Luke 9:10-17	StF 243	Psalm 137:1-6	
Thu	13	Luke 9:18-27	StF 338	Psalm 138	
Fri	14	Luke 9:28-36	StF 259	Psalm 141:1-5	
Sat	15	Luke 9:37-45	StF 261	Psalm 142	

\*MHA Sunday + Barnabas, Apostle

## Week beginning 16 June

11th in Ordinary Time

### Called to Love

Sun	16	Mark 4:26-34	StF 255	Psalm 92	<b>Flourish Challenge Share Tell Notice Care Open</b>
Mon	17	Luke 9:46-50	StF 615	Psalm 143:1-8	
Tue	18	Luke 9:51-62	StF 528	Psalm 144	
Wed	19	Luke 10:1-12	StF 468	Psalm 145:1-9	
Thu	20*	Luke 10:17-24	StF 11	Psalm 145:10-21	
Fri	21	Luke 10:25-37	StF 723	Psalm 147	
Sat	22	Luke 10:38-42	StF 530	Psalm 148	

World Refugee Week \*World Refugee Day

## Week beginning 23 June

12th in Ordinary Time

### Watch and Pray

Sun	23*	Mark 4:35-41	StF 355	Psalm 107	<b>Pray Worship Share Live Tell Open Learn</b>
Mon	24+	Luke 1:57-66, 80	StF 73	Psalm 80:1-7	
Tue	25	Luke 11:1-13	StF 519	Psalm 149	
Wed	26	Luke 11:14-36	StF 637	Psalm 1	
Thu	27	Luke 12:1-12	StF 411	Psalm 2:1-8	
Fri	28	Luke 12:13-21	StF 34	Psalm 3:1-6	
Sat	29f	Matthew 16:13-19	StF 322	Psalm 125	

\* Sanctuary Sunday + Birth of John the Baptist f Peter, Apostle

## Week beginning 30 June

13th in Ordinary Time

### The Way of the Kingdom

Sun	30	Mark 5:21-43	StF 653	Psalm 30	<b>Care Learn Open Tell Flourish Serve Notice</b>
Mon	1	Luke 12:22-31	StF 115	Psalm 4	
Tue	2	Luke 12:32-40	StF 570	Psalm 5:1-8	
Wed	3*	John 20:24-29	StF 316	Psalm 31:1-6	
Thu	4	Luke 13:6-9	StF 416	Psalm 6:1-9	
Fri	5	Luke 13:10-17	StF 681	Psalm 8	
Sat	6	Luke 13:18-20	StF 408	Psalm 9:1-11	

\* Thomas, Apostle



Week beginning 7 July

14th in Ordinary Time

**The Call of Moses**

Sun	7	Mark 6:1-13	StF 526	Psalm 123	<b>Share Challenge Care Worship Tell Learn Pray</b>
Mon	8	Exodus 1:1-11	StF 711	Psalm 11:1-5	
Tue	9	Exodus 2:1-10	StF 625	Psalm 13	
Wed	10	Exodus 2:23 – 3:6	StF 667	Psalm 15	
Thu	11	Exodus 3:7-15	StF 473	Psalm 16	
Fri	12	Exodus 4:27 – 5:1	StF 715	Psalm 17:1-8	
Sat	13	Exodus 5:1 – 6:1	StF 701	Psalm 18:1-19	

Week beginning 14 July

15th in Ordinary Time

**Slavery and Freedom**

Sun	14*	Mark 6:14-29	StF 368	Psalm 85	<b>Challenge Notice Pray Flourish Worship Care Learn</b>
Mon	15	Exodus 6:2-13	StF 697	Psalm 19	
Tue	16	Exodus 7:8-13	StF 713	Psalm 20	
Wed	17	Exodus 7:14-24	StF 455	Psalm 21:1-7	
Thu	18	Exodus 11:10 – 12:14	StF 549	Psalm 22:1-18	
Fri	19	Exodus 12:21-42	StF 639	Psalm 22:19-31	
Sat	20	Exodus 14:5-31	StF 238	Psalm 24	

\* Action for Children Sunday

Week beginning 21 July

16th in Ordinary Time

**On Eagles' Wings**

Sun	21	Mark 6:30-56	StF 324	Psalm 23	<b>Open Tell Worship Flourish Serve Care Challenge</b>
Mon	22*	Luke 8:1-3	StF 471	Psalm 63:1-8	
Tue	23	Exodus 15:1-21	StF 89	Psalm 25:1-7	
Wed	24	Exodus 16:2-15	StF 593	Psalm 25:8-22	
Thu	25+	Matthew 20:20-28	StF 486	Psalm 126	
Fri	26	Exodus 17:1-7	StF 518	Psalm 26	
Sat	27	Exodus 18:13-26	StF 689	Psalm 27	

\* Mary Magdalene + James, Apostle

Week beginning 28 July

17th in Ordinary Time

**Holy Things, Holy People**

Sun	28	John 6:1-21	StF 517	Psalm 145:1-13	<b>Open Worship Care Flourish Challenge Tell Pray</b>
Mon	29	Exodus 19:1-25	StF 686	Psalm 28:1-2, 6-9	
Tue	30	Exodus 20:1-17	StF 501	Psalm 29	
Wed	31	Exodus 24:1-18	StF 55	Psalm 30	
Thu	1	Exodus 32:1-14	StF 431	Psalm 31:1-8	
Fri	2	Exodus 33:1-23	StF 434	Psalm 31:9-24	
Sat	3	Exodus 34:29-35	StF 572	Psalm 32	

## Week beginning 4 August

18th in Ordinary Time

### Imitating Christ

Sun	4	John 6:24-35	StF 252	Psalms 78	Serve
Mon	5	Philippians 1:1-11	StF 692	Psalms 33:1-12	Share
Tue	6*	Luke 9:28-36	StF 261	Psalms 47	Notice
Wed	7	Philippians 1:12-18a	StF 402	Psalms 33:13-22	Tell
Thu	8	Philippians 1:18b-30	StF 470	Psalms 39	Challenge
Fri	9	Philippians 2:1-11	StF 199	Psalms 40:1-10	Serve
Sat	10	Philippians 2:12-18	StF 564	Psalms 42	Worship

\* The Transfiguration of the Lord

## Week beginning 11 August

19th in Ordinary Time

### The Call to Perfection

Sun	11	John 6:35, 41-51	StF 593	Psalms 34	Live
Mon	12	Philippians 2:19-29	StF 676	Psalms 36:5-12	Open
Tue	13	Philippians 3:1-16	StF 489	Psalms 37:1-29	Challenge
Wed	14	Philippians 3:17 – 4:3	StF 566	Psalms 37:30-40	Care
Thu	15*	Galatians 4:4-7	StF 120	Psalms 45	Tell
Fri	16	Philippians 4:4-13	StF 648	Psalms 38:1-8	Pray
Sat	17	Philippians 4:15-23	StF 545	Psalms 38:9-22	Care

\* The Blessed Virgin Mary

## Week beginning 18 August

20th in Ordinary Time

### The Supremacy of Christ

Sun	18	John 6:51-58	StF 573	Psalms 111	Flourish
Mon	19	Colossians 1:1-8	StF 343	Psalms 147	Pray
Tue	20	Colossians 1:9-14	StF 379	Psalms 43	Notice
Wed	21	Colossians 1:15-20	StF 16	Psalms 44:1-8	Worship
Thu	22	Colossians 1:21-23	StF 407	Psalms 46	Share
Fri	23	Colossians 1:24-29	StF 448	Psalms 148	Tell
Sat	24*	Luke 22:24-30	StF 623	Psalms 145:14-21	Challenge

\* Bartholomew, Apostle

## Week beginning 25 August

21st in Ordinary Time

### Holy Living

Sun	25	John 6:56-69	StF 588	Psalms 84	Notice
Mon	26	Colossians 2:1-15	StF 440	Psalms 48	Learn
Tue	27	Colossians 2:16-23	StF 416	Psalms 50:1-15	Open
Wed	28	Colossians 3:1-17	StF 562	Psalms 53	Live
Thu	29*	Matthew 14:1-12	StF 732	Psalms 126	Serve
Fri	30	Colossians 3:18 – 4:1	StF 615	Psalms 54	Challenge
Sat	31	Colossians 4:2-6	StF 620	Psalms 56	Tell

\* Beheading of John the Baptist

Week beginning 1 September

22nd in Ordinary Time

**Crossing Jordan**

Sun	1	Mark 7:1-23	StF 498	Psalm 15	Open
Mon	2	Joshua 1:1-11	StF 456	Psalm 55:1-8	Share
Tue	3	Joshua 2:1-14	StF 313	Psalm 55:16-22	Challenge
Wed	4	Joshua 2:15-24	StF 104	Psalm 51	Open
Thu	5	Joshua 3:1-17	StF 465	Psalm 27	Flourish
Fri	6	Joshua 4:1 – 5:1	StF 470	Psalm 57:1-3, 7-11	Tell
Sat	7	Joshua 5:13 – 6:20	StF 459	Psalm 61	Live

Week beginning 8 September

23rd in Ordinary Time

**A Covenant Renewed**

Sun	8*	Mark 7:24-37	StF 653	Psalm 146	Care
Mon	9+	Micah 5:1-4	StF 325	Psalm 45	Open
Tue	10	Joshua 24:1-13	StF 438	Psalm 62	Challenge
Wed	11	Joshua 24:14-18	StF 549	Psalm 65	Serve
Thu	12	Joshua 24:19-24	StF 460	Psalm 66:1-12	Pray
Fri	13	Joshua 24:25-28	StF 466	Psalm 67	Worship
Sat	14f	Philippians 2:6-11	StF 279	Psalm 22:1-18	Live

\* Education Sunday + Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary, trans. f Holy Cross Day

Week beginning 15 September

24th in Ordinary Time

**God of Compassion**

Sun	15	Mark 8:27-38	StF 247	Psalm 116	Serve
Mon	16	Jonah 1:1-10	StF 517	Psalm 68:1-6, 32-35	Tell
Tue	17	Jonah 1:11-17	StF 51	Psalm 100	Worship
Wed	18	Jonah 2:1-10	StF 433	Psalm 69:1-18	Pray
Thu	19	Jonah 3:1-10	StF 696	Psalm 69:30-36	Learn
Fri	20	Jonah 4:1-11	StF 705	Psalm 72	Flourish
Sat	21*	Matthew 9:9-13	StF 652	Psalm 119:65-72	Share

\* Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

Week beginning 22 September

25th in Ordinary Time

**Ministry and Oversight**

Sun	22	Mark 9:30-37	StF 420	Psalm 1	Care
Mon	23	1 Timothy 1:12-17	StF 56	Psalm 76	Worship
Tue	24	1 Timothy 2:1-7	StF 329	Psalm 71:1-16	Pray
Wed	25	1 Timothy 3:1-13	StF 665	Psalm 71:17-24	Live
Thu	26	1 Timothy 3:14-16	StF 333	Psalm 8	Notice
Fri	27	1 Timothy 5:17-22	StF 668	Psalm 73:1-14	Challenge
Sat	28	1 Timothy 6:11-16	StF 457	Psalm 73:15-28	Tell



Let us walk with you in the way of the cross, O Christ, faithfully enduring its demands, constantly sharing its message and daily revealing its love. Amen.

*Prayer of the Palestinian Women of Jerusalem (date unknown)*

## Day 15 PRAYING WITH CHRISTIANS IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND BRITAIN

### Israel/Palestine

Methodist  
Liaison Office  
David Hardman

Ecumenical  
Accompaniment  
Programme in  
Palestine and Israel

Holy heavenly Father, we thank you for the light of Christ that shines in the darkest of places and the darkness will never quench it. The land we call holy is a dark place today, so many people being killed or injured, homes lost, hopes shattered. Yet within the darkness hidden treasures remain – Palestinian Christians and Muslims living out lives of love amidst the agony around them; courageous Jewish Israelis standing up to the discriminatory government policies. We give thanks for the volunteers who serve with the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel and for the staff of the Jerusalem Office. May they continue to give hope and support where it is so desperately needed. We pray with hope for the day when Christ's light will bring peace for all the people of the land. Amen.

*John Howard, former mission partner, Israel Palestine and former EAPPI volunteer*

*Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI) volunteers serve for three months. If you are interested in taking part, visit [eappi.org/en](http://eappi.org/en) for further details.*

Eternal God of Shalom, we pray for all working for justice and reconciliation in the Holy Land.

Gracious Spirit of Salaam, we pray for wisdom and tolerance among all people for whom Israel and Palestine are Holy.

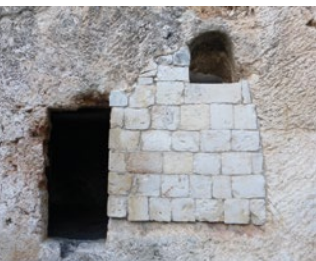
Lord Jesus, Prince of Peace, pour your inclusive, healing love on people who are frightened, oppressed, bereaved or defiant. We pray so earnestly for a just and equal sharing of the beautiful, divided and scarred land. Amen.

*Elizabeth Rundle, supernumerary presbyter, Southampton District*

For the whisper of freedom beneath the clamour of oppression;  
For non-violent resistance staring down the barrel of a gun;  
For a still small voice daring to differ with the loudhailer of lies;  
For open arms of welcome defying the rhetoric of invasion;  
For the richness of listening to people forced to live in poverty;  
We give you thanks incarnate God.

We pray through your Spirit for strength in our own situations to live as if your reign has come. Amen.

*David Hardman, Methodist Liaison Office Coordinator*



Garden Tomb, Jerusalem.

*Photo: Roger Dunlop*



The separation barrier in Bethlehem.

*Photo: John Howard*



Welcoming God,  
We thank you that many churches are finding a new purpose in providing a variety of Warm Spaces. May any gifts and talents of congregations which have been buried and forgotten, be rediscovered, valued and used to help and bless others. May those who accept the open invitation to “come in” find not just physical warmth but the warmth of loving kindness and a treasure trove of laughter, singing, fun, crafts, food and entertainment, as well as a place of support, safety, comfort and peace. May people who gather together in these small new communities find the precious treasure of human relationships, friendship and acceptance and discover that they are precious too. O Holy Spirit we pray that those you draw into these Warm Spaces will find the greatest treasure of all, Our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

*Linda Eccles, local preacher,  
Isle of Man District*

Lord, you are always working even though we might not see it, in difficult times of suffering and pain, walking next to us. You are the light in the darkest of times; the hope when all is lost and the strength when we fall. Help us to trust in your plan and see your treasures in those around us. Amen.

Chiarn t'ou gobbraghey dy kinjagh ga nagh nodmayd fakin eh, ec traaghyn doillee kyndagh rish fuillaghtagh as guin, t'ou shooyl faggys dooin. T'ou nyn soilshey ayns ny traaghyn s'dorree; nyn dreisht tra ta dagh ooilley red caillt as nyn niart tra ta shin tuittym. Cooiin lhien dy hreishteil ayns dty chummey as dy akin dty hashtaghyn ayndoosyn mygeayrt y moooin. Amen.

*Ealish Ayres, 3Gen, Isle of Man*

Deep in the silent recesses of our hearts, we hear you calling us, O God.  
Deep in the well-springs of our minds, we ponder your word.  
Deep within, we know that you are with us, even when we cry out that you have abandoned us.

The treasures of darkness and the riches hidden in secret places are not found in the wind and storm of fame; they are not seen in the earthquake's power nor in the fiery heat of unbounded wealth. Instead, the treasures of stillness and quietude well up from the secret places of heart and mind, and whisper to us that you are with us and all is well. Amen.

*Vicci Davidson, superintendent minister, Thames Valley Circuit*



An Independence Day service for Ukrainians hosted at Promenade Methodist Church, Isle of Man.

*Photo: Janet Corlett*

## Isle of Man District

**Rheynn Ellan  
Vannin Yn Agglish  
Haasilagh**

**Chair**  
Janet Corlett

Your purposes stand firm, O God. Your power trustworthy, your rest safe, your truth beyond telling, your searching without end, your love un-forgetting and your indwelling for ever.

*Tukaram, Indian mystic (c. 1608-1649)*

## Day 16 PRAYING WITH CHRISTIANS IN ASIA AND IRELAND

### Church of Bangladesh

#### Moderator

Samuel Sunil  
Mankhin

### Church of Pakistan

#### Moderator

Azad Marshall

### Sri Lanka

#### Methodist President

Ebenezer Joseph

#### Mission Partner

Sarah Lowe°

Almighty loving God, we thank you for your blessings to all the members of the Church of **Bangladesh** and for the synod, diocesan and deanery leaders, teachers and mission workers who give their time, talents and energy despite the challenges we face.

Lord, we pray for those countries that are engaged in war, facing famine and droughts and natural disasters and different types of human-made crisis. Please bless world leaders so they may work for peace in this world. Heavenly Father, we pray for the kind-hearted souls who work for your kingdom. We pray for the mission partners who are supporting the Church of Bangladesh, so that the Church can witness as salt and light. We pray for the Church of Bangladesh as it continues its 2021-2030 strategy. Please guide the Church leaders to create a spiritual revolution for the future generations.

*Samuel Sunil Mankhin, Moderator, Church of Bangladesh*

Our loving heavenly Father, we thank you for your grace and mercy to the people of **Sri Lanka** as we sail through a period of acute economic and political crisis. We thank you for all ecumenical partners and friends who have strengthened the witness of the Church through this period of uncertainty, fear and anxiety.

We pray, Lord, that the nation will be delivered from the debt crisis, and especially intercede for children who are malnourished, unemployed people, women who toil as domestics both within the country and abroad, the many poor people who go hungry to bed and those people who are detained arbitrarily. Look upon all who suffer during this time of crisis, through your mercy and grace, as you heard the cries of Hagar in the desert and the Israelites when they were in bondage in Egypt. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

*Ebenezer Joseph, President, Methodist Church Sri Lanka*

We give thanks for the work of the Methodist family striving to relieve suffering across the whole of Sri Lanka.

We give thanks for the preaching of the gospel and the passionate faith of the young people.

We pray for food and fuel security, an influx of tourism to help the economy and just governance for all.

*Sarah Lowe, mission partner, Sri Lanka*



Girls working in Sri Lanka.  
Photo: Methodist Church of Sri Lanka

We give thanks for the congregations engaging with and practically supporting their communities; the fresh energy and new initiatives as the Spirit brings growth in contexts where previously there was decline. We thank God for Methodists across the island resolving to live wholeheartedly as followers of Jesus for the transformation of the world.

We pray for spiritual renewal that is deep and wide across Ireland. More and more disciples walking and working with Jesus who are learning unforced rhythms of grace, living freely and lightly. We pray that local congregations would discern where God is building the kingdom and have the courage to join in. We bring before God the nature of politics in the two jurisdictions on this island and pray for positive change. Amen.

All-knowing God, you are the One who sees all and is through all. Father, so often we speak as if we know and understand the mysteries of life and behave like there are things which we can hide from you.

Jesus, we treat you as if your understanding is like our knowledge and we fail to grasp the extent of your awareness of all things, even the things within the depth of our souls. Forgive us.

Holy Spirit, would you search our hearts, illuminate our minds and graciously uncover more of the true riches and treasures that are contained in your good purposes for us?

That the name of Jesus may be praised. Amen.

*David Nixon, ex-President, Methodist Church in Ireland*

I lift my eyes to the trees.

Majestic canopy in city square, flourishing in a field hedge, thorn on a rocky outcrop.

I shuffle leaves, pick fruit and plant acorns.

But I like wood floors, beams in cathedrals and old ships.

Forests are fought over and industrial logging endangers all life.

Yet as biblical people met God under landmark trees, all creation meets heaven on the Cross.

That tree of life, love, death and hope.

Forever attractive to artists, trees yield new truths to science every day; their rings tell secrets of the long past; their roots talk along a web. Home to diverse creatures and, best of all, they capture carbon.

Creator God, turn my awe for trees into respectful living.

*Helen Caine, supernumerary presbyter, North Cheshire Circuit*

## The Methodist Church in Ireland

### Superintendents

#### North Eastern District

Philip Agnew

#### North Western District

Stephen Skuce

#### Southern District

Andrew Dougherty

## Irish Connexional Team

### President

David Turtle

### Lay Leader of the Conference

Tom Wilson

### Secretary of the Conference

Heather Morris

### World Mission

### Partnership Secretary

Laurence Graham

### World Mission and Development Officer

Tim Dunwoody



Hawarden, Deeside. Photo: Helen Caine

From falsehood, lead us to Truth. From darkness lead us to Light. From death lead us to Immortality.

*Indian, Brihadaranyaka Upanishad (c. 600 BCE)*

## Day 17 PRAYING WITH CHRISTIANS IN INDIA AND BRITAIN

### Church of North India

#### Moderator

B K Nayak

### Church of South India

#### Moderator

A Dharmaraj

Rasalam

We in the Church of **North India** are thankful to the global family that we have in Christ for standing with us in this time of crisis. We are thankful for the unconditional support that the Methodist Church of Great Britain, All We Can, and others have given to us. We are thankful to the Government and our leaders for their wisdom and understanding. We are thankful to our God Almighty who teaches us to fight a good fight of faith and renews our mind and spirit. Thank you, Almighty God, for purging our hearts and helping us see what you want us to see.

We pray for the Holy Spirit's help for us fix our hearts on God and seek God's kingdom above all. We pray to God for renewal in the Spirit and in our commitment to God's greater calling. Lord, help us to pray in complete honesty and help us to be faithful in the calling you have for us. We commit all our intentions to your holy hands. Amen.

*Nivedita Abraham, consultant, Church of North India*

Dear God, I thank you for your hidden treasures that you bestow in all your mercy to all who seek. I thank you that your children are passionate to share the hidden treasures of the gospel all around the world. Lord, help me not to make your hidden treasures worthless nor take them for granted. I pray for Christians in **India** – that they may cherish the hidden treasures and live boldly for Christ even as they face daily trials while trusting in you. Amen.

*Nutan Sandhya J Suray, presbyter, Birmingham (West) and Oldbury Circuit*

Lord Jesus, your path of obedience led to misunderstanding, false accusations, an unjust trial, physical violence and death on the cross. Hear us as we pray for all those who are persecuted for their faith. Give wisdom in the face of misunderstanding, and courage to deal with insecurity and discrimination. Give strength to those who act as legal representatives for people unfairly accused, and to all who speak up for justice and equality. Answer the prayers of your people who ask for deliverance from oppression, and let them know your presence with them as the One who understands. Amen.

*Sheila Norris, Partnership Coordinator for Asia and the Pacific*



Woman praying in Goa, India.

Photo: rvmages/Getty

Chaplaincy is a significant feature of ministry in the Lincolnshire Methodist District. The Lincolnshire Community Healthcare Chaplaincy (LCHC) is one such expression. Nine trained voluntary chaplains meet with clients referred by their GPs in seven health centres across Lincolnshire. Several hundred appointments were held last year.

## Lincolnshire District

### Chair

Angela Long

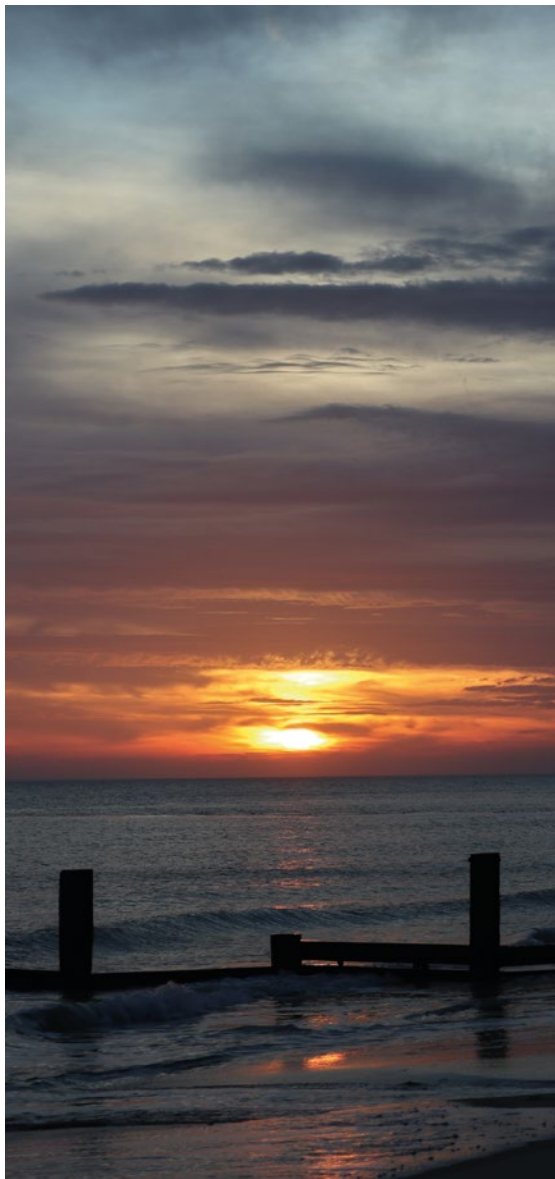
Christ the Healer,  
who calms the troubled mind,  
restores confidence in the anxious,  
and brings focus, wisdom, and empathy  
to the listener,  
we pray for LCHC,  
that it may further develop, increase  
its reach,  
and be part of your healing ministry. Amen.

All the sermons ever preached,  
all the prayers ever prayed,  
all the theological tomes ever published,  
are collectively but a tip of the iceberg;  
such is the extent of your glory.  
Dissatisfy us  
that we dive beneath the surface,  
of every encounter, conversation,  
and insight;  
for knowing what we know  
should never be enough.

*Bruce Thompson, former District Chair,  
Lincolnshire District*

In the darkness of your world Lord, I need  
your light. When I am worried about paying  
for my heating; the mortgage; the food  
I will feed myself and my family, I need  
your light. When I am feeling concerned  
about the health and well-being of family,  
friends and strangers, I need your light.  
In the hours I am in most need I seek you  
and find you in the food banks; the warm  
spaces; the cards, emails and telephone  
calls I receive; the smile and friendly  
greeting that is unexpectedly given as I go  
about my day. In those moments, Lord, I  
find the hidden treasure of hope, peace  
and love that helps me through another  
day. Amen.

*Rob Russell, worship leader*



The Norfolk coast. Photo: Bruce Thompson



Come, O Word most gracious and guide your flock. Come, O Wisdom most holy and mother your children. Come, O Light most glorious and lead us to heaven. Amen.

*Clement of Alexandria (c. 150-c. 215)*

## Day 18 PRAYING WITH CHRISTIANS IN ASIA AND BRITAIN

### Indonesia

#### Methodist Bishop

Kristi Wilson Sinurat

### Methodist Church of Upper Myanmar

#### President

Rev Malsawmthanga

We give thanks for the works of Jesus Christ in **Indonesia** and for the time to serve God better in 2023/2024. We pray for the Actualization program: continuing the love of Jesus Christ to fellow human beings and all of creation. We pray for the sick and suffering as refugees due to war and pray for the maintenance of nature in a sustainable manner. Amen.

*Kristi Wilson Sinurat, Bishop, Methodist Church of Indonesia*

We give thanks for God's protection on the Methodist Church of **Upper Myanmar** (MCUM) during recent years while the Church has faced the global pandemic of Covid-19 and political crisis due to the military coup; the financial survival of the MCUM, since grants could not be received due to strict restrictions by the military.

We extend our thankful hearts for God's providence to MCUM using the helping hands of the Methodist Churches in Britain and Ireland. We pray that the MCUM stand firm and overcome this dark time of so many hardships; that rapid political resolution could be worked out by all the responsible parties. We pray for the MCUM, that it may successfully develop a sustainable income-generating project; and that it can continue to take care of more than 3,000 people who are suffering from the war.

*Kok Thang, former President, Methodist Church of Upper Myanmar*

We pray for the country of **Myanmar**, whose beauty shines out from mountain ranges, shimmering lakes and ancient stupas, whose wealth is in precious environmental resources of oil, gas and teak and a treasure trove of jade and gold. We give thanks for the treasure of the gospel buried by Christian missionaries to Myanmar in previous centuries and whose words and example inspire the Church now.

We pray for people who mine the meaning of faith today; keeping the light of faith, hope and love shining in difficult times; for the churches as they respond to the country's civil war, and for Christian mission and gospel projects, for healthcare and education.

*Susan Mclvor, District Safeguarding Officer, Nottingham and Derby District*



A happy elderly female worshipper at Homalin Methodist Church, January 2020. Photo: Susan Mclvor



The beauty of a robin hidden in vegetation in snow and ice. Photo: Brian Moffat

We give thanks for the variety in contexts of witness and mission across the District; for rural chapels supporting village communities in south west Lancashire, city centre witness through Somewhere Else (the Bread Church), engagement with the Shakespeare North Playhouse in Prescot, and support for asylum seekers and refugees in Wirral.

## Liverpool District

### Chair

Sheryl Anderson

We pray for all the hidden treasures across the District: for those working alongside marginalised people, for the Ukrainian Welcome Centre in Crosby – based in the Methodist Church, for those working with survivors, and the army of unnamed people who give their energy and time to create warm spaces in the local church – offering welcome and friendship.

God of mystery and imagination,  
help us to see you in both the unexpected and the familiar,  
for surely you are present in all things.

The stranger who, from nowhere, stops to help; the beloved friend who speaks a word of comfort; the stone when lifted reveals the life beneath; the child who marvels at such a world of tiny beings, unnoticed and essential – all these display the wonders of your love, ever present if not always known.

In these times of uncertainty and doubt, enable us to lift our eyes to heaven.

Remembering the stars are always there but that it takes the darkness to reveal them. Amen.

*Sheryl Anderson, District Chair, Liverpool District*

Lord God, you have spoken through the psalmist that I am fearfully and wonderfully made; as you knit me together you hid treasures for me to find as I grow in you. Help me to explore the darkness and unlock the hidden treasures, allowing me to experience your grace and mercy. As your light reveals itself, initially as a small shaft, then slowly emanating as a rainbow in my soul, uncover the hidden treasures of your love. Through the full spectrum of your radiance, guide me in exploring the missionary tasks you have set before me and which, through your Spirit, I will engage with your people, irrespective of their class, colour or creed. Amen.

*David Latter, Chair of Trustees, Leaders of Worship and Preachers Trust (LWPT)*

Dear God,

Thank you for all of these hidden treasures: peace, nature, a place to call home, food to eat, air to breathe, a bed to sleep in, clothes to wear and a life to live. Help everyone to realise that we have these hidden treasures and to make the most of them. Amen.

*Ellie, Year 2, St Peter's Methodist Primary School, Canterbury*

Let us be yours, O God. Let us not draw back from you, neither from your presence, nor from your cross. Touch our hearts and make them holy. Consecrate our lives and enlist them in your service. Amen.

*Lucy Herbert (1669–1744)*

## Day 19 PRAYING WITH CHRISTIANS IN ASIA AND BRITAIN

**Malaysia**  
**Methodist Bishop**  
T Jeyakumar

**Singapore**  
**Methodist Bishop**  
Gordon Wong

We give thanks for God's divine protection over **Singapore** – our churches and families. We give thanks for the Lord's gracious guidance as we prayerfully seek God's will in all our discussions, planning and endeavours. We give thanks for the Holy Spirit's empowerment which enables us to do God's will and to walk as children of light. And to fulfil the new commandment given by our Lord Jesus, "Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another" (John 13:34). We pray for our rapidly ageing society and for God's love and wisdom for all to manage the many related challenges to both young and old. We pray for the unity of Christian denominations and the perseverance of faith in these turbulent times.  
*Gordon Wong, Bishop, Methodist Church in Singapore*

Loving God, you are a God of compassion, justice, and restoration. Guide and inspire your Church to follow your ways. Empower us to be proactive with issues of safeguarding. By your Holy Spirit enable honest conversations to take place. As we discuss and, maybe at times, struggle to talk about potentially challenging topics, help each of us to be pastorally sensitive and aware of the needs of others. By your wisdom, guide us to offer people care, compassion and understanding. May our thoughts, words and actions reflect your love and help to connect others to your immeasurable grace.  
*Jennifer Parnell, deacon, Redhill and East Grinstead Circuit*

Creator God  
Who delights in bringing new life:  
Renew and re-create our churches  
So that we might be ready for the new things you are bringing forth.  
Risen Lord Jesus  
Whose resurrection life is offered to us all:  
Help us to let go of the things we no longer need  
And to see the new shoots of life and growth  
In your garden of resurrection.  
Holy Spirit  
Who hovered over the waters at the dawn of all things:  
Fill us up with love and grace  
Lead us down new paths  
So that the earth may be filled with the knowledge of God  
As the waters cover the sea. Amen.  
*Emma Nash, Mission and Community Engagement Officer*



*Kuala Lumpur. Photo Kiyoshi Hijiki/Getty*

We give thanks for your continuing call to discipleship and service, and for those who respond in faithfulness and trust; and particularly for lay pastors, children and family workers, community workers, administrators and all other lay people who serve the Church through employed roles in the District. May they know your Holy Spirit's encouragement and purpose in their daily lives and work.

## Manchester and Stockport District

### Chair

Andrew Lunn

We give thanks that you give dreams to older people, and visions to younger people for new initiatives in mission and ministry in this District. May the dreamers inspire and enable new communities to flourish, and old fellowships to witness and serve in new ways.

We give thanks for the faithfulness of Methodist Church members across the District, and pray for all who are weary, stretched, or sorrowing. Heal and renew them, and hold before them the vision of the heavenly banquet through their worship and sharing together in communion and fellowship.

Precious Jesus,  
in you we have found the treasure the world discounts.  
Rather than seek cheap substitutes  
in the world's bargain basements,  
may your enticing beauty lead us to great sacrifices  
so that, having nothing, we may possess everything  
as we are embraced by you. Amen.

*Andrew Lunn, District Chair, Manchester and Stockport District*

Lord and Father,  
Thank you for the hidden treasures,  
The stories of those  
who've made their home with MMHS.  
We are honoured,  
we are humbled,  
to be the quiet custodians  
of these inspiring accounts  
of grassroots ministry  
in needy communities,  
of retired ministers  
who never really retired  
from breaking the bread  
of compassion  
and sharing the cup  
of tenderness.  
As we seek to comfort  
a broken-hearted world,  
may we shape a story of love and rescue  
for others in need.

*Clive Price, Communications Manager,  
Methodist Ministers' Housing Society*



*"...for a child has been born for us"  
(Isaiah 9:6) Pathway Pebbles, the  
Pathway Methodist Church, Middleton  
in Teesdale. Photo: Debbie Andrew*

Eternal and glorious Trinity, for whom we thirst and long; for ever let us desire your light, seek your face and wrap ourselves in the robe of your majesty and love. Amen.

*Catherine of Sienna (c. 1347-1380)*

## Day 20 PRAYING WITH CHRISTIANS IN ASIA AND BRITAIN

### China

#### President of China

Christian Council  
Wu Wei

#### Amity Foundation

##### General Secretary

Ling Chunxiang

Amity is a Chinese non-government organisation founded by Christians.

### Hong Kong (Special Administrative Region of China)

#### Methodist President

Tim Lam

#### Mission Partner

Eden Fletcher°

God of Hope, We give thanks to you that you have called us by name. The good news of Christ Jesus is no longer a hidden treasure in **China** but a precious presence which has transformed many lives and the society.

We pray for the leaders of the Chinese government, may you hold them close to govern the people with your love and grace.

We pray for the political instability that has caused a mass emigration in **Hong Kong**. May you hold close those who have left; grant peace to those who have stayed; and give hope to those who are in-between.

We pray for ministers, leaders of Hong Kong Methodist Church and all Christians in Hong Kong. May you grant them wisdom and freedom to overcome new challenges so that the truth is preached boldly.

We especially pray for those who have arrived and seek a new life in the UK. May you grant church leaders your wisdom and generous hospitality to welcome them, enable them to discover their hidden treasures, and your divine vocation to live a newness of life that reflects your kingdom on earth as in heaven.

In Jesus' powerful and precious name we pray. Amen.

*Kan Yu, presbyter, London District*

Heavenly Father,

We thank you for your amazing work done in the world for Hong Kong people and immigrants moving to the UK. With the welcoming policy, hundreds of thousands of Hongkongers have moved to settle here in recent years. Many Hongkongers arrive with wounded hearts and leave their homeland unwillingly, as many immigrants do. Lord of all, heal and comfort your people with your mercy. We thank you for loving and hospitable churches to welcome them and help them settle in a very new place. We pray that all people who are new here can find a suitable church which is a 'hidden treasure' from God. Amen.

*Tim Wong, theology student at Wesley House, Cambridge*



Cantonese-speaking  
Methodist fellowship.



Lord God, we give thanks for the many new members joining the Chinese church in Newcastle from Hong Kong. We pray for their new beginnings here in the UK and thank God for them. We give thanks for the changes many churches and circuits are making after the Covid-19 pandemic in order to be more relevant and effective in their communities; and for the range of partnerships being formed in serving those most in need in the District.

We pray for all those involved in making courageous decisions to follow the Spirit's leading, wherever that may take them, be it as individuals or corporately. We pray for opportunities to recognise and encourage more pioneering that goes beyond the edges of our normal reach; praying particularly for the Mother House, our New People New Places District project. And we pray particularly that the learning coming from civic partnerships supporting the Poverty Truth Commission will germinate in other local authorities.

Lord of all, by your amazing grace you gift us with all that we need. We seek to depend on you, knowing your love is constant and new each and every day.

We give you thanks this day for the surprising gifts that will meet us in the kindness of others. And, as your Spirit leads us, may we be an unexpected blessing – sharing Christ's love with others in our actions, thoughts and words. For the coming of your kingdom we pray, in Jesus name. Amen.

*Stephen Lindridge, District Chair, Newcastle Upon Tyne District*

God of the light and the dark,  
God of the mountains and the valleys,  
God of all that is seen and unseen.

God with us through the mundane and the exciting,  
God with us through narrow paths and wide spaces,  
God with us through our fears and our hopes.

God be with me now, in this moment, in this time,  
God be with me now, in my thoughts, in my dreams,  
God be with me now, this hour, this day, every day. Amen.

*Sam Monaghan, CEO, MHA*

## Newcastle Upon Tyne District

### Chair

Stephen Lindridge



*Red Squirrel, Northumberland. Photo: Sue Aspden*

Be to us, O God, our love and our hope; our thoughts flowing from you, our life being in you and our breathing taken with you; for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

John Cassain (c. 360-435)

## Day 21 PRAYING WITH CHRISTIANS IN ASIA AND BRITAIN

### United Church of Christ in Japan

#### Moderator

Shoko Aminaka

### North Korea

#### Chair

Kang Myong Chol

### South Korea

#### Presiding Bishop

Chul Lee

We give thanks for preserving the **Korean** Methodist Church (KMC) during the Covid-19 pandemic and restoring public worship services in all local churches; for the leading of the KMC Conference to serve KMC in being more committed to mission and evangelism, even though the Korean Church is facing challenges. And we are thankful for God's great mission through 1,325 mission partners in 84 countries sent by KMC.

We pray for the Korean Methodist Church to restore its spirituality to fulfil the mission of light in Korean society; for God to pour mercy and wisdom upon the leadership and governments in South and North Korea for reconciliation and reunification in the Korean Peninsula; and for the Korean Methodist Church to hunger for the word of God and prayer in the Church's crisis and be more devoted to the great commission of Jesus Christ.

*Chul Lee, Presiding Bishop, Korean Methodist Church*

God, although we are made in your image we are broken by yielding to our human weakness. We choose reconciliation with you and all creation, that we may walk a path of justice and righteousness.

God, we thank you for your patience with us and ask your pardon for the times we have failed to live with respect to creation.

Pardon us.

We are sorry for those occasions we choose what is easy rather than consider our footprint on this planet.

Pardon us.

We seek your forgiveness when we do not have at the fore of our lives the impact we can have in bringing justice to creation.

Pardon us.

If we have not truly taken to heart how our communities of faith are a witness to care for the environment, pardon us.

Forgive us.

God, take all these our stumbling blocks and, through your Spirit, whittle them down into cobblestones so we may walk your path. Amen.

*Shalome MacNeill Cooper, Eco Lead, Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District*



South Kwanglim Church,  
South Korea.

The Lancashire District gives thanks to God for many hidden treasures:

places of welcome, food and clothing banks, work with refugees and asylum seekers across the county;

places of beauty – both coastline and stunning countryside – and award-winning parks and green spaces, including the new Eden Project, Morecambe, promoting good health and well-being;

a commitment to become eco churches, circuits and District;

chaplains, both lay and ordained, in prisons, hospitals, care homes, universities, town centres and institutions, especially the considerable work in Methodist and other primary schools;

for New Places for New People initiatives in the District and circuits, longing to uncover the new treasures the Spirit reveals in surprising ways; ecumenical leadership and initiatives across Lancashire, and the much closer working together and integration of the Methodist North West region.

I wonder...

Why you, Lord, choose to hide your treasures and to invite us to join in the divine 'hide and seek'?

Why you, Jesus, choose darkness as the place where the richness of your light shines most strongly, most resolutely?

Why you, Spirit, choose to summon us by name – speaking into our lives with such intimacy and love?

Perhaps, Three-in-One,

you delight to find us seeking;

you enjoy the powerful impact of even the smallest of lights, piercing the deepest darkness;

you intend for us to know your voice, follow your promptings and to bear witness to your name.

Thank you for revealing your hiddenness, illuminating our darkness, and enabling us to know how much you have treasured us. Amen.

*Philip Gough, District Chair, Lancashire District*

For all communities living in the comfort of having enough, may we deepen our will to follow Jesus:

Lead us in the love of God from worshipping wealth and status to openness to each other. Lead us in the affection of God from a fragmented people bound together as a club to a fellowship who know our need of God and each other.

Lead us in your will God, to follow Jesus and explore the way of the kingdom;

Lead us in the eye of God to take our experience of the Holy Spirit to a deepening awareness of the presence of God.

Lead us in the purpose and charge of God to do what Jesus desires. Amen.

*Eric Hewitt, local preacher, North Wiltshire Circuit*

## Lancashire District

### Chair

Philip Gough



Worshippers at Kwanglim Methodist Church, South Korea. Photo: James Carver



## ASK

Lord Jesus, we ask that you reveal to us those priceless treasures hidden in unlikely places, that we might see all you have freely given us.

## SEEK

Creator God, we seek a revelation of the riches you have stored in secret, like diamond-light in the deepest darkness, that we might see the light by which we find you, even as you have first found us.

## KNOCK

All-Embracing Spirit, may we anticipate your generous welcome and hospitality, as we venture to knock on new, unfamiliar doors, and welcome all, as priceless treasures, in equal measure – the measure by which you graciously, abundantly welcome us. Amen.

*Philip Gough, District Chair, Lancashire District*







God of the slave, hope of the captive, healer of the broken; come to your people and set them free.

*Hawaiian Benedictus, source untraced*

## Day 22 PRAYING WITH CHRISTIANS IN THE PACIFIC AND BRITAIN

**Aotearoa/  
New Zealand  
Methodist President**

Peter Taylor

**Uniting Church  
in Australia  
President**

Sharon Hollis

At Conference 2022 we gave thanks for Methodism's 200 years in **New Zealand**; recognising and celebrating that the past gives us confidence to face the future.

The Methodist Church in New Zealand (MCNZ) is complex, with services delivered in many languages, including Te Reo, the language of Māori, those from Pacific islands, and English. With a mix of cultures, theology and worship styles it is sometimes hard to be a united church, and harder still to recognise and unearth the hidden treasures within.

God of the whole Church, bless the life and work of MCNZ, with all our diversity, that we may be true to our heritage, our God and the hope to which we are all constantly called.

*Peter Taylor, President, Methodist Church of New Zealand,  
Te Hāhi Weteriana o Aotearoa*

We give thanks for the ministry of the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress and their ministry of truth-telling, justice and support; the diversity of languages, nations, cultures, ages, genders and sexualities who belong to the Uniting Church and those who minister to those who live in the most remote parts of **Australia**.

We pray for the courage and wisdom to live more fully the Covenant between First Peoples and Second Peoples from many lands and for a positive response to a Referendum on an

Indigenous Voice to parliament. We ask for the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we seek to discern new directions for the Uniting Church and a willingness to keep expanding our understanding of who is welcome at the table of Jesus.

*Sharon Hollis, President, Uniting  
Church in Australia*



**President and Vice-President  
at Kaero, the first mission  
station in 1823.**



**Congregation of The Uniting Church in Australia.**

*Photo: Sharon Hollis*

Eternal God,

We pray for those who find no treasure in life and dare not hope for more than sustenance.

People who are ignored who dare not hope for the treasure of belonging.

People who are trafficked who dare not hope for the treasure of freedom.

People who are homeless who dare not hope for the treasure of walls and a roof to call their own.

People who are refugees who dare not hope for the treasure of welcome and acceptance in a strange land.

People whose bread basket is empty and who dare not seek the treasure of a full pantry.

People who are alone and lonely and who dare not seek friendship and companionship.

People who are ill and dare not hope for care and healing.

People who are dying, and who do not know you and do not know of your treasure of eternal life.

Eternal God, for them all we pray. Amen.

*Elaine Halls, supernumerary presbyter, South West Wales Circuit*

We continue to give thanks for the young evangelists' scheme and those engaged with it; for the New Places for New People projects including pioneer outreach ministry in Nottingham City Centre and in Clifton; the Resting Place in Heanor and dreams and visions for new work in other settings across the District.

We pray for fresh vision in sharing God's good news which leads to making new disciples, a growth in faith and the release of surprising hidden treasures.

We pray for the District Leadership Team and for continuing vision for the ways in which they work together with other Districts across the region.

God of all, we praise you for the ways in which you surprise us by your presence,

Enable us with your grace and fill us with you love.

God who loves all without reserve,

Lead us to be intentional about making new disciples and followers of Jesus Christ, committed to mission and outreach with every fibre of our beings, caring about all your people and investing in them and surprise us with the gift of new, hidden treasures to do your will and to see your kingdom come. Amen.

*Andy Fyall, District Chair, Nottingham and Derby District*

Eternal God, we seek clarity and reassurance in a bewilderingly complex world.

Grant us the patient trust that will enable us to sense your hand in the emergent, the ambiguous, the random and the fragile. Give us courage to embrace your vulnerability seen in Jesus Christ.

May your Spirit help us to understand it is amid the darkness that your light can be seen most clearly; attune the eyes of faith so that we can detect and follow the glimpses of your kingdom's radiance. In the still, dark night of our days may we behold galaxies of divine light and love and be captivated by the vision of your glory. Amen.

*Mike Long, Action for Children Trustee*

## Nottingham and Derby District

### Chair

Andy Fyall



The hidden treasure of new life for all: "Behold I stand at the door and knock ... To offer you the treasures of hope, love and fullness of life." (Quarr Abbey, Isle of Wight). Photo: Andy Fyall

Today, O God, may we drink from the cup of your salvation, rejoice in the company of your saints and delight in the sacrifice of your praise. Amen.

*Polycarp of Smyrna (c. 155)*

## Day 23 PRAYING WITH CHRISTIANS IN THE PACIFIC AND BRITAIN

### United Church in Papua New Guinea

Moderator

Bernard Siai

### United Church of the Solomon Islands

Moderator

Armstrong Pitakaji

God, we pray for the life and work of the congregations, plans, programmes and mission activities of the United Church in **Solomon Islands**. We pray for the faithful and committed work of the staff of the circuits, regions and the Assembly Office, and for all leaders, both laity and clergy, and members in local churches and communities. We thank you, God, for the healing of the body, mind and soul and pray for reconciliation and peace in our communities, in the nation and in the world. God, we thank you that through the proclamation of the gospel, lives may be transformed and renewed for Christ. Amen.

*Brian Bird, General Secretary, United Church Solomon Islands*

God of margins, edges, and thresholds,  
open our minds to listen and learn from people on the margins.  
God of justice,  
open our ears to the voices of people trapped in  
cycles of debt and hardship.  
God of unbounded love,  
open our hearts to nurture new relationships with new people.  
God of hope,  
open our eyes to see the gifts and skills of all people.  
God of life,  
give us courage, to step into your imagination and vision  
for new Christian communities amongst people on the  
economic margins. Amen.

*Eunice Atwood, Church at the Margins Officer*

O God, where are your hidden treasures to be found?  
I think I cannot see them, but then I remember  
how Christ walks with Street Pastors,  
caring for vulnerable people in the night-time economy;  
how your Holy Spirit gives words of wisdom to chaplains,  
ministering to people with terminal illnesses in hospices;  
how councils are inviting faith groups to the table,  
to be part of the solution to the ills in their communities.  
Where are your hidden treasures to be found?  
In plain sight, and we give you thanks for when we see them. Amen.

*Angie Allport, deacon, Herefordshire (South and East) Circuit*



Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands.

*Photo: Getty*

We pray for the Northampton District in all its glorious diversity and difference. We give thanks for the faithfulness of individual disciples, churches, chapels and circuits across the District and the hardworking team of District officers whose sole purpose is to support the work of chapels, churches and circuits. Lord, we are thankful for the District Mission Enabler and the Mission Support Group, as well as the 19 superintendent ministers who give immense encouragement, support and care to our circuits and churches, sometimes with fewer resources but always with creativity and vision.

## Northampton District

### Chair

Helen Cameron

We pray for the Year 1 and Year 2 Probationers, the District Probationers' Secretary and Early Years in Ministry Officer, for superintendents and circuit stewards and the work of the Shared Districts Probationers Committee. We bring before you the New Places for New People Project, FEAST and the Revd Kim Shorley, the FEAST District Enabler. We pray for the work of the District Executive in encouraging both vision and strategy and the lay workers across the District who, in a variety of contexts, are seeking to build your kingdom here and now. May lay and ordained people work together for your glory, supporting and encouraging one another.

Holy God, you are our greatest treasure, may we search you out in the darkness of our pain and in our light-filled joy, and in the everyday ordinariness of our lives. When we do not, or cannot, or do so without enthusiasm, touch us again with the flame of your love and enliven us.

You made us to be like you, to bear your love and to be your faithful witnesses, may all that we are, and do and long to be, give you glory and praise. Amen.

*Helen Cameron, District Chair,  
Northampton District*

Ever-calling God, you summon each and all by name.

We pray for your presence to be found and felt within FEAST, the Northampton District pioneer project, as it grows in its vision of being a place where Friends Explore And Share Together and is nurtured within the circuits.

Give the strength of patience together with

signs of hope to those who are enabling and supporting these new communities.

Through your creative Spirit, who is alive in us and in whom we find our breath, continue to encourage and equip them in becoming a New Place amongst New People where the treasures of worship, learning and caring, service and evangelism will be discovered; transforming lives, communities and the world.

*Kim Shorley, FEAST District Enabler, Northampton District*



An example of a Slow Stitch Epiphany prayer collage created at the Nene Valley FEAST crafting group.

*Photo: Kim Shorley*

Day and night, we confess your name, O Lord, and proclaim your glory. In wisdom you have made all things and by your Spirit you sustain them. From sunrise to sunset you reveal your majesty, speak peace to our hearts and protect your people. With unending praise, with all your saints, we rejoice in the gift of salvation.

*North African liturgy (3rd or 4th century)*

## Day 24 PRAYING WITH CHRISTIANS IN THE PACIFIC AND BRITAIN

### Fiji

#### Methodist President

Ili Vunisuwai

### Samoa

#### Methodist President

Faulalo Leti Paaga

### Tonga

#### Methodist President

Tevita Havea

God of creation,  
thank you for the beauty and diversity of the **Pacific Islands**.

God of mercy,  
forgive us for all the damage we do to the natural world.

God of compassion,  
continue to inspire action on behalf of those whose homes are threatened by rising ocean levels, and whose food supplies are contaminated by pollution.

God of justice,  
give wisdom and strength to all who raise their voices to protest about climate change.

God of all people,  
help us never to think that damage to the environment is someone else's problem, but to be informed about what we can do, and do it.

*Sheila Norris, Partnership Coordinator for Asia and the Pacific*

New every morning are your mercies, O God.

But, morning comes only after the night.

When we are in the midst of the cold of the night, give us faith to cling to the promise of a new, coming day. Help us to see the works of your grace around us and help us to recognise that miracles often come from unexpected places:

From the little child who shared his lunch with the crowds; from the woman who poured out precious oil to try to express the significance of your Son's presence; from the women who went to the tomb with a heavy task but returned instead with spectacular news.

All were marginalised by their society, but all were made powerful through your message of love.

As we awaken to a new morning, may we know the mercy given to us through those stories, and may we look for them around us today. Amen.

*Jean Hawxhurst, Ecumenical Staff Officer for the Council of Bishops, United Methodist Church*

Dear God, Please be with us when we are sad, scared or frightened. Help us to remember you're always in our hearts. Amen.

*Sophie, Year 2, Nutgrove Methodist Primary School, St Helens*



Church in rural Fiji.

*Photo: Getty*





## Plymouth and Exeter District

### Chairs

Daniel Haylett  
Loraine Mellor

Attenborough Nature Reserve, Nottinghamshire.

*Photo: Susan Mclvor*

We give thanks for the creative and faithful witness of people across the Plymouth and Exeter District expressed in a glorious variety of kingdom ways. We pray for the Find One vision of the Plymouth and Devonport Circuit, encouraging every member in sharing Christian faith. We pray for the Victoria Park Christian Centre at Plainmoor in the Torbay Circuit, forging a new partnership with the charity Turning Heads to offer a community kitchen with family cooking sessions, a social supermarket and providing new opportunities for the local community to feel at home in the Church. We pray for District staff, supporting these and many other expressions of Our Calling across the District, especially for Andy Jerrard, our District Agricultural Chaplain, in his vital pastoral and prophetic ministry.

Revealing God,  
when the way ahead is unclear, or we imagine you ignore the cries of those yearning for justice, peace and dignity,  
remind us of the treasure we have in Christ: the riches of faith opened to us all.  
Renewing God,  
when we deny the power of resurrection life, or ignore the potential of hope you place within us,  
remind us of the treasure we have in Christ: the riches of faith opened to us all.  
Reconciling God,  
may your kingdom come to birth within us and around us, as your Spirit releases and renews, comforts and encourages,  
remind us of the treasure we have in Christ: the riches of faith opened to us all.  
In Jesus' name. Amen.

*Daniel Haylett, District Chair, Plymouth and Exeter District*

Loving God, you remind us in your Bible that when we find it difficult to pray the "Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words" (Romans 8:26). Thank you for the treasure hidden in these words of Scripture.  
When we experience moments in life when we are exhausted by care, ground down by constant negativity, or know that words are not enough to heal the pain,  
help us to trust in your Holy Spirit.  
Help us to see that when we cease from constant busyness, quieten our minds and silence our tongues, it's then we might hear the "sighs too deep for words" and know again the comfort of your love.

*Susan Mclvor, District Safeguarding Officer, Nottingham and Derby District*

Come and reign, O Christ, in our home and its life; in our church and its mission; in our nation and its politics; in our world and its affairs. Come, O Christ. Come and reign.

Mary Sumner (1828-1921)

## Day 25 PRAYING WITH CHRISTIANS IN EUROPE AND BRITAIN

### United Methodist Church in the Nordic and Baltic Area

#### Methodist Bishop

Christian Alsted

#### Superintendents

#### Denmark

Jorgen Thaarup

#### Finland (Finnish and Swedish speaking)

Jori Brander

Mayvor

Warn Rancken

#### Latvia

Edgars Šneiders

#### Lithuania

Remigijus Matulaitis

#### Norway

Knut Refsdal

Ingull Grefslie

#### Ukraine and Moldova

Oleg Starodubets

#### Uniting Church in Sweden

#### President

Lasse Svensson

We praise God that many of our churches in **Denmark** have developed new ways of being in ministry with people who experience poverty. We thank God for the life of ministry offered by those pastors who are now going into retirement. We give praise to God for blessings as young and gifted students enter into ministry. We pray for families who are struggling to make ends meet. We pray for people who are living in war zones.

Let your heavenly peace take rest among us and put an end to aggression and war. And, we pray for inspiration and courage to find new ways of being in meaningful ministry with people who have not yet experienced the grace of our Heavenly Father.

*Thomas Risager, superintendent, Denmark*

We give thanks for churches exploring fresh expressions of church, new diaconal initiatives and church leaders at all levels in **Norway**. We pray for people struggling due to the financial situation, the process towards becoming an inclusive Church for the LGBT+ community and the future of The United Methodist Church.

*Knut Refsdal, superintendent, Norway*

We pray for the development of youth and children's ministry in every congregation, and for children and youth camps, particularly Camp Wesley. May each young person experience God's presence during the summer camps. We pray for the Hope Centre in Liepa, for the mothers and children who reside there and the Liepa after-school programme. May the children attending get to know God. We give thanks for the renewing of a preaching place in Virga. We pray that the current pastors and church leaders will be filled with the Holy Spirit, and that every church member would become an active and passionate witness of Christ in **Latvia**.

*Edgars Šneiders, superintendent, UMC, Latvia*

We rejoice with the new Christian communities starting to take shape across Sheffield District. We pray for wisdom and perseverance for the guiding teams, discernment for stakeholders, and for what they are learning to be an encouragement in all circuits.

## Sheffield District

### Chair

Gill Newton

We give thanks for the ways many buildings have recently been remodelled to remain a blessing to their communities: including as soft play centres and accommodation for pilgrims. We pray for opportunities to make all chapels fit for the missional needs of today and tomorrow, recognising that this may require painful or courageous decisions.

We celebrate growing engagement with District youth gatherings and 3Generate and ask God's blessing on the launch this year of the new District youth internship programme.

We give thanks for all who give their time and expertise – paid and unpaid – delivering sound administration and wise governance across Sheffield District. May they seize opportunities to simplify procedures and so release time and energy for sharing stories of faith, passionate contextual worship and transforming mission. Amen.

Creator God, you separated light and darkness giving us the precious gifts of day and night. You used the stars of the sky to illustrate your covenant promises. You sent messengers to the shepherds as they kept watch by night. Speak to us through the darkness.

Christ Jesus, you often prayed under the cover of darkness, searching for guidance about the next steps in your journey. In Gethsemane we sense you wrestling with questions yet affirming your commitment to God's will. From the hidden darkness of the tomb came resurrection and new life. Intercede with us in the darkness.

Holy Spirit, you brooded over the waters of the deep, calling forth rich treasures where we saw only a void. Elizabeth was filled with your presence as her baby leapt for joy in the darkness of the womb. In the secret depths of sleep, you spoke to your servants through dreams and visions. Show us what is hidden in the darkness. Amen.

*Julie Coates, Deputy Chair, Sheffield District*

Our Heavenly Father,

We pray today for the Ukrainian people and we ask for your continued support in this unjustified war levied against them.

Have mercy on the people of **Ukraine**; deliver them from fear, violence, attack, injury, destruction, death; and give them courage, solidarity and allies in their hour of vulnerability and sorrow.

Strengthen the hands of all who are seeking to halt conflict, restore order and pursue justice.

Make Ukraine free and peaceful.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

*Kirsten Hastrup, Assistant to Bishop Christian Alsted,  
Nordic and Baltic Episcopal Area*



**Camp Wesley, Latvia.**  
*Photo: Edgars Šneiders*

May we watch for you, O Lord, in the storm, in the earthquake and in the fire; lest in the stillness of the silence you go undetected. Amen.

Based on 1 Kings 19:11-12

## Day 26 PRAYING WITH CHRISTIANS IN EUROPE AND BRITAIN

### United Methodist Church in the Eurasia Area

#### Methodist Bishop

Eduard Khegay

### Germany

#### Methodist Bishop

Harald Rückert

### Mission Partners

Barry° and

Gillian (p) Sloan

### United Protestant Church of Belgium

#### President

Steven Fuite

### United Protestant Church of France

#### President

Emmanuelle

Seyboldt

### Mission Partner

Ray Borg° and

Karen Borg

We give thanks for God's grace that has enabled us as a Church to be united in our witness to Christ and to celebrate different expressions of Church. We give thanks for the new churches that have been planted in south **Germany** and for the 25 international and migrant churches and ministries within the UMC in Germany. We are grateful for the rich spiritual and cultural blessing that these friends bring; and for the members of local churches who devote themselves to welcoming the stranger.

We pray for those undergoing theological education and ministerial training. May God equip them to be leaders. We pray for the ongoing plans in UMC Germany and, particularly, for the UMC Tent Mission which serves churches throughout Europe.

*Harald Rückert, Bishop, United Methodist Church in Germany*

Our God,  
when our days are heavy and rich  
and nothing seems to go right anymore,  
when life no longer has any taste,  
when nothing seems worthwhile anymore –  
You, however, are standing there,  
exactly there where nothing has any sparkle left.

There, your word is whispered  
even in our brokenness  
and comes to sow everything  
and gives us the desire to continue.

There, you come to restore our dried-up places  
and finally renew everything;  
There, you are the embers under the ashes,  
and you give us to hear  
that being born is always in season,  
beyond our deceptions  
There, at the bottom, the light emerges  
and transfigures everything: Our God, thank you.

*Jean-François Breyne, moderator of the liturgical group, United Protestant Church of France*

Lord God, the Southampton District give thanks for the ministry of lay and ordained people across the circuits as their mission and discipleship is shared within many different communities. Encourage the Circuit and District Leadership Teams that, in this time of change, they will be open to receive your wisdom and guidance.

Enable the ongoing development of the Compass Project which is the District's New Places for New People project in the City of Portsmouth and those who are beginning to shape its life and ministry.

Equip the District's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Team in their ministry of sharing their experiences and enabling all people to truly recognise, celebrate and value the diversity of all people and communities the Church seeks to engage with. Amen.

## Southampton District

### Chair

Andrew de Ville

Gracious and loving God, we thank you for those treasures we have from you – the gifts of different resources, wisdom, understanding and compassion. Encourage us to be willing to share those gifts and not to hide them away. As we journey through this connexional year help us to be truly present in the light and dark of our own lives so that we can encounter your presence with us. Through our personal experiences and discipleship may we also be willing to share the light and darkness of those we are called to serve in our different communities. We pray in the name of Christ. Amen.

*Andrew de Ville, District Chair, Southampton*

God, you made us in your wonderful image,  
you tasked us with caring for your  
precious creation –  
the world, ours to care for.

At times, we gasp with the beauty of it all –  
the trees that give us air to breathe,  
the plants that feed us,  
wonders all around.  
Sometimes hidden, but always there.

We haven't always acted with strength.  
At times, we have been selfish;  
your wonder neglected,  
ignored for our greed.

God you see us at our darkest,  
we pray that you guide us and give  
us strength.  
Direct us to the right path, so we can  
do your bidding.  
Your creation always cared for. Amen.

*LH, Year 6, Emmanuel Junior Academy*



**A path lying open ahead. Newton, Isle of Wight.**

*Photo: Miriam Moul*



Endue us with your power, O Lord, that our mouths may speak your word, our hearts reveal your grace, our lives proclaim your goodness, and our labours find fulfilment in heaven. Amen.

*Sarah Mallet, Methodist Preacher (1764-1846)*

## Day 27 PRAYING WITH CHRISTIANS IN EUROPE AND BRITAIN

### United Methodist Church in Central and Southern Europe

#### Methodist Bishop

Stefan Zürcher

#### Superintendents

#### Albania

Wilfried Nausner

#### Austria

Stefan

Schröckenfuchs

#### Czech Republic

Ivana Procházková

#### France

Grégoire Chahinian

#### Hungary

László Khaled

#### North Africa (Algeria, Tunisia)

Freddy Nzambe

We give thanks for the churches that continue in **Albania** despite the migration of young people to other countries. We thank God for new people receiving the call into ministry and for the development of the Early Intervention Centre in Tirana. We pray for the funding for projects for the education of pastors and lay people as they help to build a better society and for good leadership on a national and local level.

*Wilfried Nausner, superintendent, UMC, Albania*

We pray for the new bishop, elected for our Central Conference. We give thanks for volunteers in our churches. We pray that people will hear themselves called to serve in the Church and will be willing to follow this call; for growth in the work with children and young people and that the ecumenical cooperation of the Churches in **Austria** be perceived as a strong sign of peace and reconciliation.

*Stefan Schröckenfuchs, superintendent, UMC, Austria*

We give thanks for the Protestant Church family in the **Czech Republic**. We give thanks for the continuing journey of reconciliation and cooperation between Christian Churches and for all the dedicated workers who carry out the ministry of diaconia – in schools and nurseries, in hospitals and prisons, to homeless people and so on. We pray for understanding and the sharing of faith, values, hope and joy across generations; in society, in families, in Christian communities. We pray for a spirit of mutual respect and cooperation and for peace and solidarity in God's creation.

*Ivana Procházková, superintendent, UMC, Czech Republic*

We thank God for people who are ready to serve, pray and donate to the UMC in **Hungary**. The Lord is with us, and we can serve God in times of challenge and needs. We give thanks for the students who are learning in seminary to be pastors of the UMC congregations and communities or to be teachers at the Methodist schools. We pray for the Methodist schools and old people's homes, particularly during this challenging energy crisis. We want to serve God and be present in society. May we be open-minded and able to reach new people with the good news of Christ.

*László Khaled, superintendent, UMC, Hungary*



The hidden treasure of a place to pray (St Ceneri-le-Gerei, Normandy).

Photo: Andy Fyall

We pray God will continue to encourage and equip the Yorkshire West District to respond to God's call to care for creation. We pray for the District, circuits, and churches as they each try to commit to reducing their impact on creation, and better care for what God has given to us and our neighbours, celebrating the faithfulness of those churches that have already achieved bronze or silver eco church awards.

## Yorkshire West District

### Chair

Kerry Tankard

We give thanks to God for how people in Keighley and in Pontefract are being stirred to discern new ways of being Church, as we follow God's leading to discover New Places for New People in those towns. We also pray for the Equipping Mission and Ministry Group reflecting with the District and circuits on God's invitation to explore new things.

Holy God,  
creation is your gift of grace,  
pregnant with your presence.  
You have adorned it with goodness,  
with jewels of kindness  
that shimmer and cast light into life.  
The radiance of your Spirit refracts  
through the lives of your people  
and illuminates the darkness,  
disturbing it with hope.  
As your hand unveils what is hidden,  
may we reflect what you reveal  
for the good of all you have made. Amen.

*Kerry Tankard, District Chair,  
Yorkshire West District*

We give thanks that, despite the crisis situation, God sent us new collaborators for our communities. We give thanks that some local churches, although closed, continue to meet as small house groups to encourage each other. We pray for the Church; that people would not be discouraged – and that they will find an open, attentive ear with the authorities. We pray for the people who are isolated, having only places of worship to recharge their spiritual batteries and not with their families as other family members do not share the same faith. We bring before God the situation in Algeria, a country experiencing economically difficult times and ask for God's blessing.

*Freddy Nzambe, superintendent, Algeria*

We give thanks for the commitment of church members to the elderly, for the work for and with young people and for the social commitment to refugees. We pray for the future of the UMC in France; for a relevant, coherent and consistent witness in the increasingly secular society and for the Methodist institutions in France: retirement homes, bookstores, vacation centres and so on.

*Grégoire Chahinian, superintendent, France*



*Wydale Retreat Centre, North Yorkshire.*

*Photo: Peter Clarke*

Grant us, Lord, the penitence of the publican who dared not raise his eyes to heaven, the desire of the prodigal who set out for home and the wisdom of the merchant who surrendered all to possess the kingdom. Amen.

*Rabbula of Edessa (c. 350-435)*

## Day 28 PRAYING WITH CHRISTIANS IN EUROPE AND BRITAIN

### United Methodist Church in Central and Southern Europe (cont.)

#### Superintendents

#### North Macedonia

Marjan Dimov

#### Poland

Jozef Bartos  
Waldemar Eggert  
Andrzej Malicki  
Sławomir  
Rodaszyński

#### Romania

Rareș Călugăr

#### Serbia

Daniel Sjanta

#### Switzerland

Serge Frutiger  
Brigitte Moser  
Etienne Rudolph  
Stefan Zolliker

We give thanks for God's faithfulness; for the blessings of fellowship within and among our church communities and for the trials that have made us stronger. We pray for God to bless our children and youth and enable us to bring them up in godly ways; for our leaders to be guided by God's grace and wisdom and for the people of **North Macedonia** to come to know Jesus Christ as their Saviour and Lord.

*Jennifer Moore, GBGM Missionary, North Macedonia*

We give thanks for the opportunity to further develop God's mission in **Poland**. We thank God for the new calls to serve in the Church, and for the help that they have been able to offer Ukrainian refugees.

We pray for strength, perseverance and love in continuing to help refugees and for support – logistical and financial – as we further assist refugees still coming into Poland. We ask God for peace and security in Europe and the world.

*Andrzej Malicki, leading superintendent, Poland*

We give thanks for growth and development of community centres in each of our three faith locations in **Romania**. We continue to pray for God's clarity and provision in how we are to best utilise these spaces to meet the holistic needs of our communities, regardless of the demographics. We give thanks for God's care and provision for the refugees entrusted into the care of the Church, and for the means and resources to be able to send food and necessities to our 'family' in Ukraine.

*Rareș Călugăr, superintendent, UMC, Romania*

We give thanks that we are able to proclaim the gospel freely, and for every type of ministry present in our UMC District of Serbia – and for all the people involved in those ministries. We pray for true understanding, interpretation, and application of the Word of God. We ask for strengthening of our weak points so that we are ready to face challenges that come our way, and for new types of ministries and new people willing to serve.

*Daniel Sjanta, superintendent, UMC, Serbia*



## Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District

Chair

Rachel Parkinson

Methodists from the Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District.

*Photo: Rachel Parkinson*

Within the Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District, we give thanks for church communities whose horizons of hospitality are expanding, offering welcome to people whose gifts and needs have previously not been recognised nor met and for congregations where a poverty of material resource is acting as a clarion call to draw deeper from wells of prayer. We pray for The Gate – a new church for the additional needs community; wisdom to discern which structures will best help Methodism in the West Midlands to flourish and for people who struggle to know which burdens might safely be laid down in order that their load in lay or ordained ministry may be sustainable.

Hidden God,  
you are known to me as absence  
more than presence yet  
just occasionally the  
point of a needle breaks  
through the fabric of my life,  
makes one perfect golden stitch  
and disappears again  
into the depths.

It's not much, but  
enough to know that  
the thread is unbroken  
and for that  
I thank you.

*Rachel Parkinson, District Chair, Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District*

God, whose creative Spirit gives gifts and talents to people after your own nature, we thank you for all those whose gifts – spiritual, artistic and literary – have given enjoyment and inspired others in their pursuit. We thank you for people whose various crafts and skills have produced works large and small to inspire us and beautify the world in which we live. Help us to eschew ugliness in word and action and live in harmony with what you have created, always leaving the world better for our passing through it. Amen.

*Maurice Wright, supernumerary presbyter, Shrewsbury and Marches Circuit*

We give thanks for the initiative of local churches and individuals who have taken in Ukrainian refugees and continue to support them in many ways. We thank God for the successful running of many national and regional children's and youth camps. We pray for the further helpful accompaniment of the Ukrainian refugees and, if they wish so, their integration into local churches. We pray that the desired unity in diversity is filled with life in local churches and becomes a blessing. We ask God for wisdom, strength, joy, blessings and guidance for the new bishop, Stefan Zürcher.

*Serge Frutiger, superintendent, UMC, Switzerland*





God of hidden treasures beyond our imagining,

In silence,  
may I sense your heartbeat of love;

In the Living Word,  
may I find your truth;

In the beauty around me,  
may I see your image;

In the warmth of friendship,  
may I find your heart;

In the essence of being,  
may I find that which stirs the soul.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

*Andy Fyall, District Chair, Nottingham and Derby District*





Let your peace rule in our hearts, O Lord that we may delight in your strength, rejoice in your grace and find our fulfilment in your will; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Matthew Henry (1662-1714)

## Day 29 PRAYING WITH CHRISTIANS IN EUROPE AND BRITAIN

### Italy

#### Methodist President

Luca Anziani

#### Waldensian Moderator

Alessandra Trotta

#### Mission Partners

Fiona Kendall (Ia)

Matthew Laferty\*

### Portugal

#### Methodist Bishop

Sifredo Teixeira

### Spanish Evangelical Church

#### President

Alfredo Abad

### Conference of European Churches

#### General Secretary

Jorgen Skov

Sorensen

### Community of Protestant Churches in Europe

#### Presidium

John Bradbury

Marcin Brzoska

Miriam Rose

### European Methodist Council Co-Chairs

Harald Ruckert

Doug Swanney

Merciful Father, we give you thanks for every breath and every day in which you allow us to see the work of your creation in this world. We thank you that we can share the gifts you have given us with our brothers and sisters in **Italy** so that we can be a reflection of your love in the lives of others. We thank you that we can be bearers of your gospel in the lives of those who suffer.

We pray for migrants that you will protect them and their families during their difficult journey. We bring before you people suffering from illness and pray for their health and the healing of all. We pray for the ceasing of war in the different nations.

*José Antonio Flores Montano, Postholder Methodist Music Ministry Enabler, Project of the Opera per le Chiese Evangeliche Metodiste in Italia (MCB World Mission Fund)*

Seeking God, you know us in our dark times and our light; our ups and our downs. And sometimes, when the path is dark, we lose sight of you and your love.

We pray today for all going through mental health problems at this time. For those struggling with anxiety, depression, schizophrenia and many other conditions; knowing these illnesses have a detrimental impact on the lives of those suffering.

Caring God, we ask you to clear the path of all hurt, for you are our anchor and, during the storms of life, our trust will hold steadfast and sure in you. Amen.

*James Carver, Youth President, 2022/2023*



Treasure in a field: photo taken on Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District Pilgrimage, 2022.

Photo: Roger Dunlop

We give thanks for gifts of hopeful imagination as people around the District seek new ways to flourish.  
We pray for churches exploring their 'future story' and for people being inspired to pioneer in new ways.  
We pray for the ongoing work to become a Net Zero District, and for the District's commitment to well-being and care for one other.

## Yorkshire North and East District

Chair

Leslie Newton

Faithful God,  
we trust in your promise that the darkness so often contains treasures:  
maybe not of our choosing, or initially inviting;  
maybe lacking the shine and allure of other more obvious treasure.

May we have the wisdom to dig deep,  
to slow our days, to sift our diaries,  
to make the space to spot the hidden,  
to explore and appreciate all that you have for us.

Help us to see life afresh through your eyes,  
to appreciate its darkness and light, its dirt and beauty,  
and to be so much more deeply aware  
of the treasury of your overflowing love. Amen.

*Leslie Newton, District Chair, Yorkshire North and East District*

Unifying God, reigning far above our earthly differences:  
in the midst of injustice, wars and suffering, you call us to bear with one another in love.  
Help us to remember the essential qualities of faith: humility, gentleness, patience and love.  
May we strive to put peace into one another's hands, to treasure it and to protect it like a candle flame.

God of peace and justice, rain down upon us your peace,  
fill every heart with your peace,  
now and for ever, Amen.

*Elizabeth Burroughs, Immediate Past President, World Day of Prayer National Committee  
England, Wales and Northern Ireland*

*World Day of Prayer 2024 will be on 1 March. On that day, Christians all over the world will join with the Christian women of Palestine to meditate and to pray over Paul's message to the Christians in Ephesus: "I beg you ... bear with one another in love" (based on Ephesians 4:1-7).*

All our powers we surrender to you, O God, and our whole will to yours. All our designs we submit to your design and all our purposes to yours. Amen.

*Phoebe Palmer, Methodist Evangelist (1807-1874)*

## Day 30 PRAYING WITH CHRISTIANS IN THE GLOBAL UMC AND BRITAIN

### United Methodist Church

*The UMC is a global expression of Methodism and a Concordat partner with the Methodist Church in Britain. We seek to be in mission together for the transformation of the world*

#### Council of Bishops

##### President

Thomas J Bickerton

##### Ecumenical Officer

Sally Dyck

##### Secretary

L Jonathan Holston

##### Executive Secretary

Bruce R Ough

##### Ecumenical Staff Officers

Jean Hawxhurst  
and David Field

We give thanks for the unity of the universal Church of Jesus the Christ, made visible between and among ecumenical partner communions; for the ministries shared between the United Methodist Church and the Methodist Church in Britain, particularly in the area of global missions and through our Concordat working group; for the enduring theological legacy of the Wesleys we share, including: our belief in personal relationships with God, our call to social justice and holiness, our belief in the abounding grace of the Creator, and the hymns we share (even when we sing them to different tunes!).

We pray for each other, and for all the Methodist/Wesleyan/United Churches around the globe, especially when we find ourselves as neighbours in our communities. We pray for an end to racial prejudice and oppression, and a continuing commitment to love each other and to intentionally witness to unity and the power of Christ through our shared ministries.

*Jean Hawxhurst, Ecumenical Staff Officer for the Council of Bishops, UMC*

O God of light and hope,  
We in The United Methodist Church are walking an uncertain pathway,  
not knowing where it will lead for us as a Church.  
We lament that our differences have become dividing for some.  
Yet we know that throughout our salvation history,  
there have been times when uncertainties  
have resulted in unexpected opportunities and directions.  
Help us who stay United Methodist recommit  
to making disciples of Jesus Christ,  
to strengthen our relationships with our ecumenical partners,  
and care for our neighbours near and far.  
Give us eyes to see the hidden treasures in those along our path  
and guide our feet into the ways of peace.  
In Jesus' name, Amen.

*Sally Dyck, Bishop, United Methodist Church*



Site of St Ninian's treasure,  
Shetland. Photo: Dr Val Turner



Last winter saw several thousand Shetland households cut off from electricity for some days. We give thanks for God's enduring help and encouragement as the God from whose loving power we are never cut off. We thank God for the development of the District Food for the Way project with its weekly meals and community gardening activities and for the renewal of worship at the island chapel at Whiteness and for re-engagement with families at North Roe and Walls.

## Scotland District Shetland District

### Chair

Mark Slaney

## Shetland District

### Deputy Chair

Stephen Charman

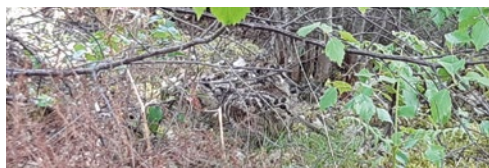
We pray for progress towards establishing a Fresh Start Centre to offer residential support for those affected by addiction; for the new Deputy Chair as he begins his ministry in Shetland and for others who will share in leading the mission of the Church through the islands and for continued growth of Messy Church and Vintage Messy in established and new settings.

What treasure can I find beneath your cross, Lord? Not silver or gold or jewels, treasure to be taken away and kept in a museum. Beneath your cross I find the treasure of hope and peace and forgiveness. From that place of death comes the treasure of life and joy and freedom. This treasure is not taken from me, and I pray that I may share this treasure gladly and effectively with others. This treasure is not simply to be viewed, but to be embraced and lived by your grace. Amen.

*Andrew Fox, former Deputy Chair, Shetland District*

We thank God for new ways of creating and resourcing ecumenical witness in Scotland. We pray for the deepening development of New Places for New People in Aberdeen, Dundee, East Glasgow and Girvan.

We thank God for the partnership between City of Edinburgh Methodist Church and Westminster Central Hall. We pray for effective missional engagement with Edinburgh festivals.



Hidden in plain sight this photograph contains four woodcock (small mottled brown birds) – can you see them?

*Photo: Mark Slaney*

We thank God for recently stationed ministers in Forth Valley Circuit and Strathclyde Circuit. We pray for Synod, circuits and churches as they envision and implement new structures to meet mission and ministry needs with diminishing resources.

We thank God for the new Woodlands International Methodist Church and its Ghanaian heritage. Praying for increasing diversity in living out Our Calling for all.

God in hiding, waiting in the dark, blowing over the formless void, speak a word of light and life, we pray, and make something out of this nothing once again.

God hidden in plain sight, divine treasure to be found in seeds and soils, yeast and dough, birds and trees, hunger and thirst, enemy and neighbour, bread and wine, open our eyes, give sight to our blindness and make us to see you once again.

God hiding in me like water, underground rising, seeping out, bursting out, pouring out, come Holy Spirit come and make me full to overflowing once again.

*Mark Slaney, District Chair, Scotland District*



Praise to you, God of all mercy, Lord of all being, Master of the day of judgement, Guide of the true way and Path of the blessed. You alone do we serve. You alone are our helper.  
*The Qur'an (7th century)*

## Day 31 PRAYING WITH CHRISTIANS AROUND THE WORLD

### Mission partners in transit and those who have ended their period of service overseas in 2023/2024

Wendy Kilworth-  
Mason (ed)

Joanna Tettey,  
Joelle and Janelle

### World Methodist Council (WMC)

**General Secretary**  
Ivan Abrahams

*As a member of the  
WMC the Methodist  
Church in Britain also  
relates to other Methodist  
Churches worldwide.  
For a full list please see  
[worldmethodistcouncil.org](http://worldmethodistcouncil.org)*

### World Council of Churches (WCC)

**General Secretary**  
Jerry Pillay

*The WCC is a fellowship  
of 350 churches,  
denominations and church  
fellowships in more  
than 110 countries and  
territories throughout the  
world, representing over  
560 million Christians.*

God of overflowing compassion, we are thankful for your grace that continues to fill us with concern for others. We pray for the Yambasu Agriculture Initiative, a programme that seeks to provide sustainable agriculture throughout Africa. May this initiative – with its fruits of food security, income generation and reinvestment – grow as an expression of our connections to neighbours and the soil itself. Additionally, we pray for mission initiatives across the world. God, continue to move us from compassion to action, through your perfect example. Amen.  
*Roland Fernandes, General Secretary, General Board of Global Ministries and United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)*

We pray for the current officers of the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women: President Sipiwé Chisvo in Zimbabwe, Vice-President Ivonne Pereira Diaz in Chile, Secretary Louise Wilson in Ireland and Treasurer Sing Hong Ting in Hong Kong. We pray for Barbara Easton and Wanda Hogan, President and Vice-President of the Europe: Britain and Ireland Area as they, alongside women from eight other areas, work for justice and equal opportunities globally. We pray that as Federation women seek to know Christ more completely they will be empowered by the love of God to make God known, and bear fruit that will last. Amen.

*Alison Judd, President Emerita, World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women*

Heavenly Father,  
Today we pray for all those whose stories are front and centre in our news – for people caught up in accident and incident, war and disaster. But we also pray for those whose stories are yesterday's news – for people whose lives were changed by the things that we read about, but who are now forgotten as the world moves on. We hold in your unforgetting love those whose stories are no longer seen – lives changed by loss and trauma; wars that rumble on despoiling land and livelihood; people bearing the weight of consequence, guilt and regret. In your love we pray for them. Amen.

*Barbara Easton, Area President (Europe: Britain and Ireland) for the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women*

Lord, we want an easy life – we come to you to escape our difficulties, for a solution to our problems, to find security. But you call us to take up our cross and follow you into the world in all its complexity, difficulties, pain, uncertainties, and godforsakenness. As you did when you became human and walked steadfastly toward the Cross.

You are calling us to enter and embrace the world that we might be a source of healing, hope and transformation, even when it costs us. Many are fleeing war, poverty, and violence; Lord, what does it mean for us to join them on their journeys?

*Dr David N Field, Theological Dialogue Council of Bishops, United Methodist Church*

Holy and hidden God,  
your mystery and majesty fills the earth and all creation.  
You take sanctuary in the core of our being,  
and in your being we find refuge and strength.  
All people bear the stamp of your image –  
an embodiment of your abounding treasure,  
your delight and pleasure.  
Keep us open to your gifts we carry within us  
and unveil before us your grace and generosity –  
the shower of your blessings in our engagements and  
interaction.  
Hold us in our brokenness.  
Illuminate us in our darkness.  
Speak to us in all languages.  
Bless all who live and give their lives to show us the world  
you desire. Amen.

*Inderjit Bhogal, President of Methodists for World Mission*

*Methodists for World Mission (MWM) is a lay movement with a focus on celebrating diversity, promoting global relationships, and learning from global partners. MWM raises awareness through its conferences and supports mission partners through prayer.*

## Global Relationships Committee

### Chair

Jen Smith

## Global Relationships in the Connexional Team

### Director of Global Relationships

Andy Dye (interim)

### Global Relationships Change Leader

Conrad Hicks

### Partnership Coordinators

Andrew Ashdown  
(Africa)

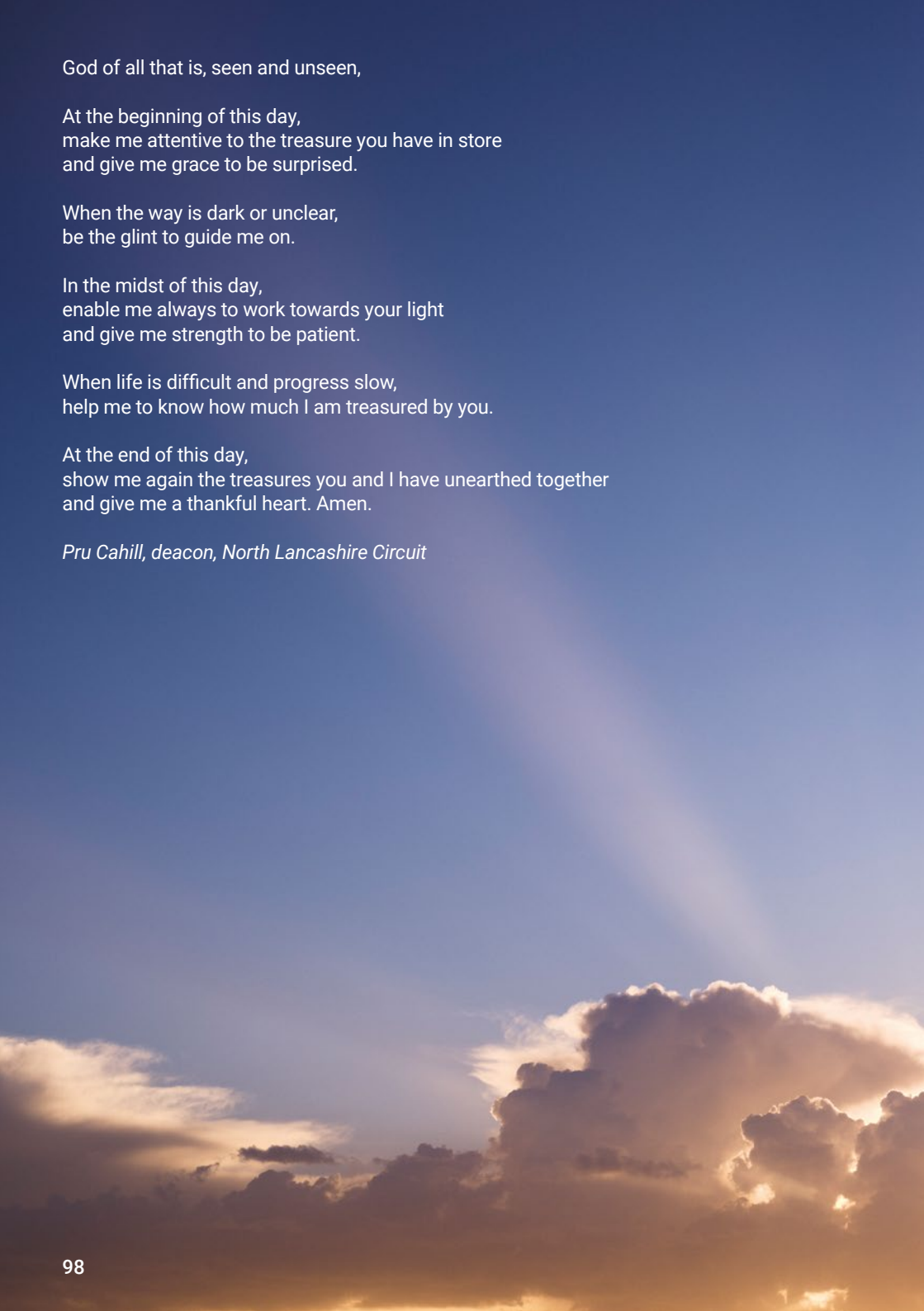
Sandra Lopez  
(The Americas)

Sheila Norris  
(Asia and Pacific)

Barry Sloan  
(Europe)

### World Mission Fund Officer

Trudi Awuku



God of all that is, seen and unseen,

At the beginning of this day,  
make me attentive to the treasure you have in store  
and give me grace to be surprised.

When the way is dark or unclear,  
be the glint to guide me on.

In the midst of this day,  
enable me always to work towards your light  
and give me strength to be patient.

When life is difficult and progress slow,  
help me to know how much I am treasured by you.

At the end of this day,  
show me again the treasures you and I have unearthed together  
and give me a thankful heart. Amen.

*Pru Cahill, deacon, North Lancashire Circuit*



# Additional Resources

**Global Relationships e-newsletter** A quarterly newsletter you can share with your local church to engage with the work around the world.

**[methodist.org.uk/sign-up-to-global-relationships-news](http://methodist.org.uk/sign-up-to-global-relationships-news)**

**Prayer and Care** This leaflet from Methodists for World Mission offers additional prayers for the work and well-being of our mission partners and Partner Churches.

**[mwm.org.uk/prayer-and-care](http://mwm.org.uk/prayer-and-care)**

**A Methodist Way of Life** This is a set of practices to support us in growing as followers of Jesus. They help us worship God, serve others, be evangelistic, and learn and care together. **[methodist.org.uk/mwol](http://methodist.org.uk/mwol)**

**Flourish Schools** Ideas and resources to help you to grow connections with your local school. **[methodist.org.uk/flourishschools](http://methodist.org.uk/flourishschools)**

**Keep tuning in** Ideas and resources to help children and young people to tune in to God, each other and the world. **[methodist.org.uk/keep tuning in](http://methodist.org.uk/keep tuning in)**

**3Generate App** Download the 3Generate App and use the Tune in section for a daily connecting point with God.

## Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT)

### E-newsletter

We produce a monthly newsletter which we encourage you to share with family and friends. Sign up at **[jpit.uk/whats-new/newsletter](http://jpit.uk/whats-new/newsletter)**

### Podcasts

Politics in the Pulpit is a weekly podcast exploring the lectionary readings in the light of the news and current events. **[jpit.uk/politicsinthepulpit](http://jpit.uk/politicsinthepulpit)**

10 Minutes On does exactly what it says on the tin and provides a concise look at a topical political issue from a faith perspective. **[jpit.uk/podcast](http://jpit.uk/podcast)**

**A Word in Time** The Methodist Church's daily Bible reading and reflection using the lectionary from the Prayer Handbook. **[methodist.org.uk/a-word-in-time](http://methodist.org.uk/a-word-in-time)**

**the connexion** This free magazine offers inspiring stories from Methodists passionate about sharing God's love. **[methodist.org.uk/theconnexion](http://methodist.org.uk/theconnexion)**

**Hidden Treasures Prayer Handbook non-print versions** Please go to Methodist Publishing to purchase *Hidden Treasures* as an ebook and in accessible versions. **[methodistpublishing.org.uk](http://methodistpublishing.org.uk)**

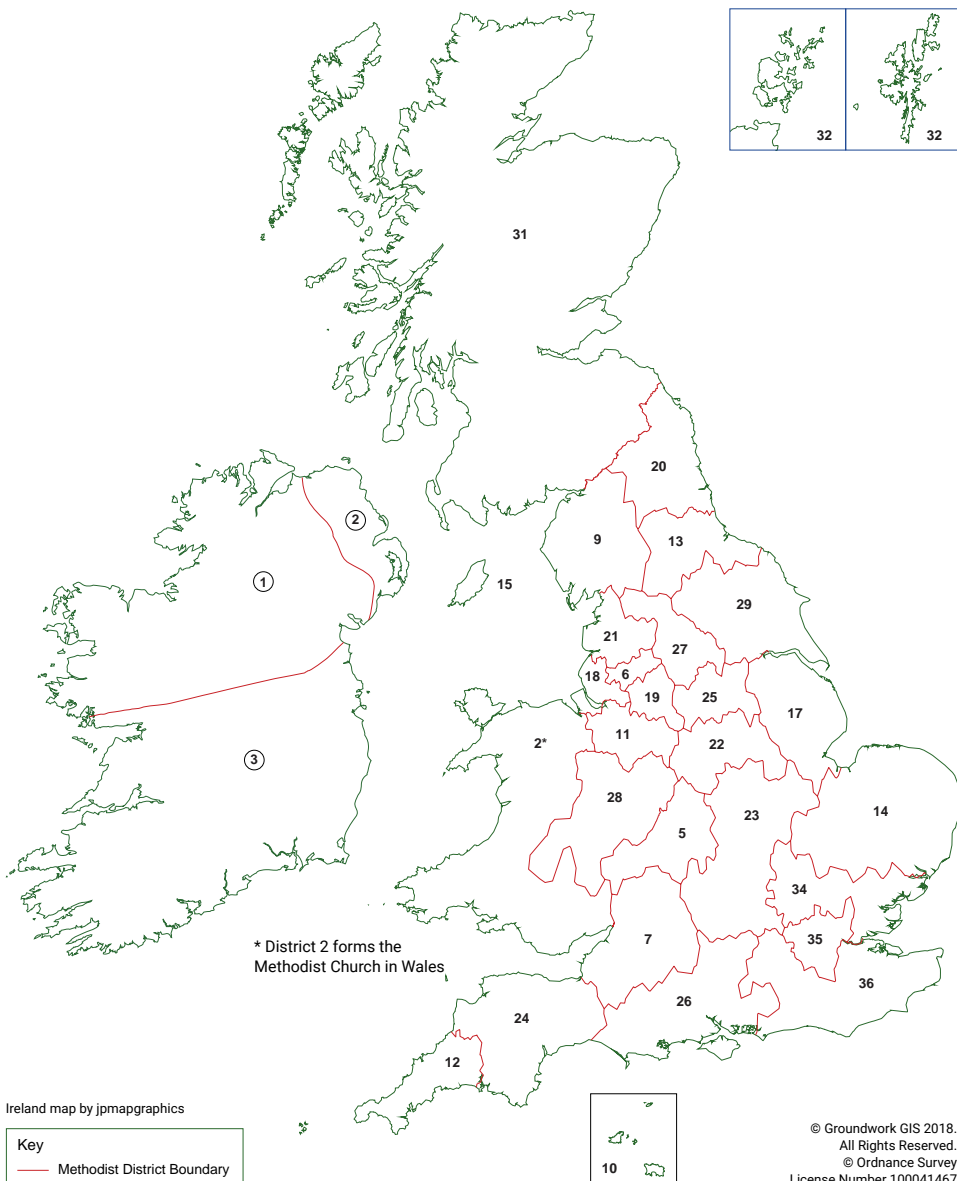
## Key

Abbreviations and symbols beside mission partners' names indicate the type of work in which they are mostly engaged.

<b>ad</b>	administration
<b>av</b>	accompanying volunteer
<b>d</b>	doctor
<b>ed</b>	education
<b>la</b>	legal advisor
<b>m</b>	medical work (other than doctor or nurse)
<b>p</b>	pastoral worker
<b>sd</b>	social/development work
<b>o</b>	minister
<b>+</b>	Joint Appointment
<b>GR</b>	Global Relationships
<b>MCCA</b>	Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas
<b>MHA</b>	Methodist Homes
<b>UMC</b>	The United Methodist Church

Mission partners' spouses and children are also listed to help you keep in your prayers the whole mission partner family; as all need prayer support while overseas.





#### Districts of the Methodist Church in Ireland

- ① North Western
- ② North Eastern
- ③ Southern

#### Districts of the Methodist Church in Britain

- |                                     |                             |  |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| 2 Wales Synod Cymru                 | 15 Isle of Man              | 27 Yorkshire West                        |
| 5 Birmingham                        | 17 Lincolnshire             | 28 Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury          |
| 6 Bolton and Rochdale               | 18 Liverpool                | 29 Yorkshire North and East              |
| 7 Bristol                           | 19 Manchester and Stockport | 31 Scotland                              |
| 9 Cumbria                           | 20 Newcastle upon Tyne      | 32 Shetland                              |
| 10 Channel Islands                  | 21 Lancashire               | 34 Bedfordshire, Essex and Hertfordshire |
| 11 Chester and Stoke-on-Trent       | 22 Nottingham and Derby     | 35 London                                |
| 12 Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly | 23 Northampton              | 36 South East                            |
| 13 Darlington                       | 24 Plymouth and Exeter      |  |
| 14 East Anglia                      | 25 Sheffield                |  |
|                                     | 26 Southampton              |  |



# The Presidency

Each year, the Methodist Conference elects the President and the Vice-President to preside over the following year's Conference. They then spend that year representing the Methodist Church as they travel around the Connexion and abroad.

The role of President of the Methodist Conference is reserved for presbyters and that of Vice-President for lay people or deacons.



**The Revd Gill Newton**  
President of the  
Methodist Conference  
2023/2024

Gill Newton is a life-long Methodist, raised in Cornwall, with experience of circuit ministry and has served as the Sheffield District Chair since 2014.

She chairs the Ministries Committee overseeing the development of the Church's ministry in many varied contexts, and also serves on the Strategy and Resources Committee and the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes Board. She has previously chaired the Ministerial Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee and served as Chair of the Chairs.

The Revd Gill Newton said in response to her election: "I am both humbled and honoured to have been entrusted with this role by the members of the Methodist Conference. With God's help and together with the Vice-President, Deacon Kerry Scarlett, I look forward to the opportunity to encourage, inspire and challenge the Methodist people."



**Deacon Kerry Scarlett**  
Vice-President of the  
Methodist Conference  
2023/2024

Kerry Scarlett, from the Birmingham District, has a passion for justice and seeks to enable and amplify the voices of others. She founded Adavu ([adavu.org.uk](http://adavu.org.uk)), an anti-trafficking charity and has participated in regional, network and anti-trafficking campaigns.

Kerry has served the Church in a number of ways, including theological education, the Learning Network, a variety of committees including the Candidates Committee and has contributed to and facilitated complex reviews.

Speaking at her induction, Deacon Kerry Scarlett shared the Presidential theme of 'Hidden Treasures', calling for: "The Methodist Church in Britain, to re-discover our treasures, both old and new. We need ... to understand who we are, as a Church, and what God is calling us to be ... To find out the glimmers of where God is, in the unexpected people and places where transformation is taking place."



# Praying for the Presidency

## Prayers requested by the Revd Gill Newton, the President of the British Methodist Conference 2023/2024

- The ability for Gill to listen well, learn eagerly and share carefully from all that she experiences during the year.
- For good health and stamina for Gill to sustain her through the experiences and challenges of the year ahead.
- For the wider Church to take seriously the call to be reshaped and renewed for such a time as this.
- For a desire within the Church to discover the treasures that God has for us all in the secret places.



## Prayers requested by Deacon Kerry Scarlett, the Vice-President of the British Methodist Conference 2023/2024

- For Kerry's ability to balance with wisdom and care, both her roles within the Learning Network and the Vice-Presidency, alongside commitments to family and friends.
- That Kerry would be open to all that God reveals as she travels around the Connexion and beyond, and find ways to share these treasures and riches with others.
- For the Church – for patience and perseverance as we wait and work for the treasures which are perhaps yet unseen by many.
- That each of us would be called to a commitment to both evangelism and social justice, as two tasks that belong together, sharing the gospel through how we speak and how we live.

# HIDDEN TREASURES

I will give you the treasures of darkness  
and riches hidden in secret places,  
so that you may know that it is I, the LORD,  
the God of Israel, who call you by your name.

Isaiah 45:3



The **Methodist** Church

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