

# BURNLEY & PENDLE CIRCUIT THE METHODIST CHURCH

God's grace in love and action

Newsletter Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2024 – Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025

## Please pray for -

The people of Syria, and for a safe and peaceful transition of power after the fall of President Assad

The people of Lebanon, and that the ceasefire holds, and lives can be rebuilt

The people of Israel and Palestine, that there will be an end to the conflict there and that a peaceful settlement can be found

The people of Ukraine and Russia, that they too will come to find a peaceful resolution

Our own country and that as we approach Christmas those who have little will find help and support, and that all those charities who bring hope at Christmas will have enough resources

Our circuit churches, and staff, that they can be beacons of light and hope this advent and Christmas

Yourselves, that you may be touched and filled with the true spirit of Christmas, and that the babe of Bethlehem will find a place to stay in your heart

## Circuit Events in the next few weeks

**Circuit Meeting on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December** at 7.30pm at Greenbrook church

## Church Events in the next few weeks

**Brunshaw's Tuesday Fellowship Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December** - Christmas Party - Entertainment by the "Fifty Something's" Singers followed by Pie and Peas. £8 50. \*\* PLEASE NOTE THIS MEETING WILL COMMENCE AT 1. 30 pm.

**Come & See our Christmas Trees on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December** 1-4pm at Higherford Methodist Church. (see poster below)

**Music & Festive Songs with Kyle of Heaven Sent on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December** at 2pm at Higherford Methodist Church. (see poster below)

**Christmas Concert featuring The Phoenix Brass Ensemble at Central Church, Burnley on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December** at 7.30pm (See poster below)

**Ightenhill Community Carols on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December** from 6.15pm (See poster below)

**Bacon butty extravaganza at Briercliffe Road Church on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December** 10am- 2pm (See poster below)

**Padiham Road Carol Service (11am) followed by South Pennine Singers` Christmas Concert (2pm) at Padiham Road Church on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December.** There will be a Pie & Peas Lunch available in between these events at 12:30pm.

Pie & Peas Lunch Tickets £3.50 (Child £2)  
South Pennine Concert £5.00



Dear Friends,

It's a few days early, but can I take this opportunity to wish all of you across Burnley & Pendle Circuit a very happy Christmas.

I'm sure that over the festive period many of you will be in church to sing our wonderful Christmas Carols and to hear again the Christmas story recorded in Matthew and Luke. There are Angels bringing messages from God, a baby is born and laid in a manger on soft straw with placid animals looking on. Shepherds visit and then wise men with gifts. It's a very warm and safe image that brings joy to the heart. Just thinking about it brings a warm cosy glow.

Yet the first Christmas wasn't cosy at all. Mary and Joseph had to walk from Nazareth to Bethlehem, a journey of about 90 miles that would have taken them several days to complete. It was a fair distance to walk, especially for a pregnant woman. There is no mention in the Gospels of Mary riding a donkey.

When they arrived in Bethlehem there was no room for them in the family guest room, the best translation of the Greek word sometimes translated as inn; and so they had to make do with the common room where the daily household activities took place, where animals were indeed fed and where there was no privacy. This was where Mary gave birth to her baby, Jesus, the Son of God – or to be more theological, this was God entered into God's own creation, fully human and fully divine.

Our God contracted to a span, incomprehensibly made man, in the poorest of circumstances and born to a poor family.

Then there were Jesus first visitors, shepherds from the nearby fields, invited by angels.

Shepherds were not well thought of in first century Jewish society. They were almost the same category as tax collectors in the eyes of most. Because they spent so long in the fields caring for their sheep they rarely attended Synagogue and they had the reputation of having a casual attitude to other people's property. They were what we might describe as rough men.

Discounted Price for Lunch & Concert £7.00 (Child £5)

For Concert only you may pay on the door.

\*Meat & Potato Pie OR \*Cheese & Onion Pie, with Peas, Pickled Red Cabbage and Beetroot.  
NB: PLEASE PRE-BOOK your Lunch Ticket with Kath on 07850 435622, or Margaret on 079800 77439, or any of the Stewards, stating your choice of Pie. Thank you.

**Carols by Candlelight on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December at Higherford Methodist Church at 6pm.** (see poster below)

**Community Lunch on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 12noon at Christ Church**

**Carols through the Years on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December at Wheatley Lane Church at 3pm**  
(See poster below)

**Christingle Service on Christmas Eve at Higherford Methodist Church at 6.30pm.** (see poster below)

**Have you seen our Circuit Advent online??**



During advent the Circuit are posting a daily passage and prayer on the Circuit Facebook page and on the Circuit You Tube channel. The response has been great. On average we have been having 200+ views a day. Thank you to all that have been involved in it.

Click this link and subscribe

<https://www.youtube.com/@burnleyandpendlemethodistc9122>

### **Family News**

The thanksgiving service for the life of one of our Circuit Local Preachers, Graham Ramsay, will take place at Christ Church on Tuesday 17th December at 1:30pm, following a service for the family at Skipton Crematorium earlier in the day. Dress code is wear whatever you feel comfortable in.

Yet it was to these rough shepherds the angels came to invite them to be the first to meet the baby Jesus.

Jesus, born in circumstances of poverty, was first visited by people largely rejected by their society. Right from the start it was obvious that Jesus had come to the poor and needy, to those rejected by society but still very much loved by God.

These things encapsulate perfectly the reason we celebrate Christmas, peace and goodwill come to earth, our Saviour born for us.

So can I suggest that as we celebrate Christmas as feel the warm fuzzy glow we also remember and give thanks for the reality of a God who loves us all and came in the baby Jesus to spread peace and goodwill, to bring our salvation and to assure us of life everlasting.

Yours in Christ,  
Rick

### Circuit Christmas Event 2024.

A heartfelt thank you to the Barnoldswick Brass Band, Pendle Ladies Choir, and our remarkable circuit choir. We are grateful for the delightful cakes and mince pies provided. This event could not have

been possible without the commitment of the volunteers who worked tirelessly to ensure its success. We are pleased to announce that we have raised £300 to support the initiatives of St. Bartholomew Community Grocery and Colne Open Door.



### Good News from around the Circuit

#### **Brierfield Methodist Church -**

Smiles, laughter and confidence being built at our weekly 'Warm Space' at Brierfield. Last week we had a full house enjoying steaming cups of coffee and warm buttered toast! All free of charge each Thursday from 9.30am - 11.45am.



Earlier in the week our Monday Club ladies created fabulous

Christmas door wreaths and enjoyed fellowship and laughter. All fresh greenery prepared lovingly by Joyce Burton a former local florist and completely free of charge. Joyce won't mind me telling you that she is 87, but has the energy and enthusiasm she always had!

#### Governor vacancy

Wheatley Lane Methodist Primary School have a vacancy for a Foundation Governor. If you worship at a Methodist Church in the Burnley and Pendle Circuit and are interested in becoming a Governor please contact Rev Rick Ormrod for more details. The school is extremely grateful to all who serve on the Local Advisory Board. They dedicate many hours to supporting, and challenging, our school. It is time consuming, but they do make a difference and ensure "With God's help we are the best we can be".

#### Wider Methodist News

*Did you Know that Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* is one of Methodism's earliest carols. Originally written by Charles Wesley, The Methodist church have produce a new version of this wonderful song in time for Christmas. *Hark!* is out now and can be streamed or downloaded from wherever you usually get your music. There is a lyric performance video which can be viewed on our Youtube channel

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wTqOAPzGnL8>

*Hark!* features vocals from two Methodist singers, Thomas Simm, District Safeguarding Officer in Chester & Stoke-on-Trent and Iona Cameron, from the Solihull Methodist District.



### **Tent of Nations stay Sunday 3rd Nov - 16th Nov**

My name is Bea Foster, I live in the U.K.

For many years, I have been going out to Palestine and staying in the West Bank volunteering with many organisations, who are working for Peace and Justice for all in the Holy Land. My motivation is my Christian Faith, the belief that all are made in the image of God and as such deserves the same rights and should be treated equally and with respect.

In November of this year 2024, I travelled to the Tent of Nations, where I stayed for 2 weeks volunteering. The Nassar family have owned the Farm for over 100 years, but have been battling with the courts the last 33 years to prove that the land is theirs. The farm is surrounded by 5 Illegal settlements, volunteers, like myself go there to be a protective present for the family against attacks from the Illegal settlers. Their motto is ` We refuse to be enemies`, their Sumud, steadfastness and Resilience in the face of overwhelming injustice is a challenge to us all. Let me add, because we are Internationals, we are in no danger what so ever, I did not have a moment on the farm when I did not feel safe.

One meets with many Internationals from many countries who come and volunteer, whilst I was there I met Americans, French, Germans, Dutch. You are never on your own. So, when there, what does one do. First, one is welcomed by the whole family, Daoud, mum Melaha, Sister Amal, brother Daher, who take good care of your every need whilst there. A big thank you to them all. Daoud Nassar ensures that the jobs you do match your physical ability, as such (I am 75 years of age), I did lots of light jobs, such as Planting, preparing herbs, feeding the animals, stripping of beds and the washing, helping with meals, cleaning, etc. The variety of jobs is vast. Working on the land, being part of things growing all around you, feeds your soul spiritually and you feel a part of God`s creation, and begin to understand how, for the Palestinians, the land is part of them. The Olive trees swaying in the wind laden down with olives is a beautiful sight, one I will carry with me always. Picking them was pure joy. As you can tell, for me being there, I feel close to God, his arms around me. To sum up, your time there is full of Fellowship, Friendship, Fun, Faith and wonderful food. The icing on the cake, so to speak is the encouragement your presence is giving to the Nassar family, in their struggle for Justice. One is truly humbled and overwhelmed. I invite you to go, see and you, like me I know with certainty, will come away blessed enormously from the experience. To find out more on how you can have an experience of a lifetime, go to their website Tent of Nations.

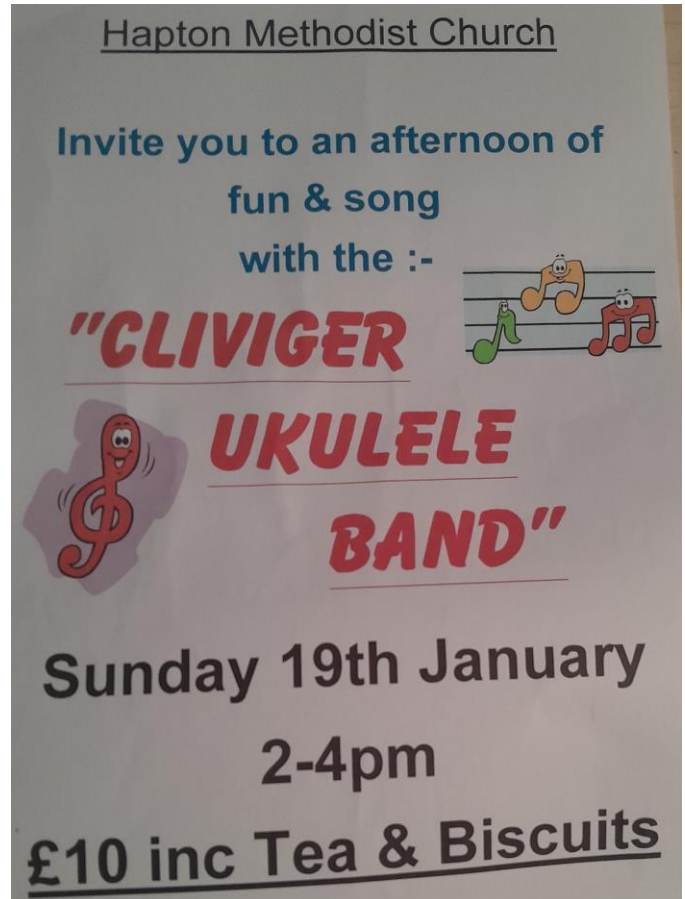
Blessings Bea Foster [Bea\\_foster@hotmail.com](mailto:Bea_foster@hotmail.com)

### **Circuit Events in January 2025**

**Circuit Prayer Breakfast on Saturday 4<sup>TH</sup> January 2025 at Christ Church, Nelson at 8am**  
led by Rev Rick Ormrod

### **Church Events in January 2025**

Cliviger Ukulele Band on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2-4pm at Hapton Methodist Church. (See poster below)



**The next newsletter will be on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2025**  
**Please forward any contributions to me before 5pm on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025.**

Claire Slack,  
Circuit's Communication &  
Information Coordinator - 07752278664  
[circuitoffice@2101methodists.org](mailto:circuitoffice@2101methodists.org)

**Posters**

HIGHERFORD  
METHODIST CHURCH

Come & See  
Our Christmas  
Trees


WEDNESDAY 11TH DECEMBER  
1-4PM

CARE AND COFFEE AVAILABLE



Higherford  
Methodist  
Church

THURSDAY DECEMBER 12TH  
2PM  
KYLE OF HEAVEN SENT  
MUSIC & FESTIVE SONGS  
£7  
SEASONAL REFRESHMENTS



**Ightenhill  
Community  
Carols** Friday 13 Dec

**6:15** Lantern Procession starting at  
junction of Southern Avenue  
and Ightenhill Park Lane.

**6:30** Carol singing in Ightenhill Park  
or in Padiham Road Methodist  
Church if the weather is poor.

\* Followed by hot drinks and  
mince pies and a Special Guest  
for the children!

Organised by



friendsofighthenhillpark.btck.co.uk

In conjunction with



burnleyandpendlemethodists.org.uk

Voluntary donations

will be given to  
Gannow  
Community  
Centre

**Christmas  
Concert**  
featuring  
**The Phoenix  
Brass Ensemble**  
Friday 13th December  
at 7.30pm

Central Methodist Church,  
Hargreaves St Burnley  
Tickets £10 inc refreshments  
available from Church Coffee  
Bar or Tel 07566781347



Briercliffe Road Church  
Melville Street,  
Burnley  
BB103DY

**BACON BUTTY EXTRAVAGANZA**  
Saturday 14th December  
10a.m. to 2p.m.



TICKET - £5

Bacon & Brie/ Turkey & Cranberry Sandwiches  
Christmas Stalls and Festive Fun





**South Pennine  
Singers'**  
**Christmas  
Concert**  
Sunday 15th December  
2pm  
Padiham Road  
Church  
Entrance £5.00  
Refreshments

**Wheatley Lane Methodist Church**  
Celebrating 200 Years  
Join us for  
**'Carols through  
the Years'**  
Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec at 3pm  
We hope you will join us for this, our  
closing celebration of the year.  
A family friendly, café style carol  
service, with festive refreshments.  
We thought we would give you the  
opportunity to dust off those period  
costumes, one last time.  
So, if you feel like joining in, please  
feel free to dress from any over the  
past 200 years, from 1824 to 2024.  
We look forward to seeing you.  
Wheatley Lane Methodist Church, BB12 9ED

## Carols by Candlelight



Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December  
6.00pm  
Higherford Methodist  
Church

Higherford Methodist Church

## CHRISTINGLE SERVICE



Come and start your Christmas  
celebrations with us at our candle lit  
family service

**Christmas Eve**

**6.30pm**