



BURNLEY & PENDLE CIRCUIT THE METHODIST CHURCH

God's grace in love and action

Newsletter Tuesday 4th March 2025 – Monday 17th March 2025

Please pray:

for the leaders of the nations that their relationships with each other may be respectful and generous, that they may seek the common good and act for the welfare of the poorest and most vulnerable.

for Shadin, a Palestinian Christian from the Tent of Nations, as she visits our circuit. We thank God for the witness of the Tent of Nations as they refuse to be enemies and work to overcome evil with good.

for the day of reflection on 9th March that marks five years since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. We join together in this prayer from The Revd Helen Cameron, President of the Methodist Conference:

Holy God, you are worthy of all praise, in times of sorrow and loss as well as in times of joy and celebration. As we recall and mark 5 years since the outbreak of the Covid pandemic in the UK we hold before you all who died, often without contact with those they loved most dearly; all who mourned under restriction and limits; all who died in care homes; those who gave birth alone and all those who lost their jobs and livelihoods. We give you thanks for the selfless care of so many in the NHS and care sectors and local services who supported and upheld us at great cost to themselves. We thank you for all we have learned as a consequence of all that was endured; the importance of relationships, the value of touch and face to face contact, and access to green spaces and fresh air. We pray for all those who live with the impact of long covid, for children and young people whose lives were impacted in so many ways, and for local churches. Hold us in your love and care, God of love, now and forever. Amen

Circuit Events in the next 2 weeks

Ash Wednesday Service on Wednesday 5th March at 7pm at Christ Church, Nelson. Shadin Nassar a Palestinian Christian from the Tent of Nations farm situated in the West Bank, Palestine will be speaking at this service.

Circuit Youth Gathering on Sunday 9th March, 6.30-7.30pm at Fence Village Hall, BB12 9QH. Hot dogs, Games, Arts & Crafts, Music. Please contact Rev Adrian Perry if you are interested. (adrianperry@2101methodists.org).

Local Preachers' and Worship Leaders' meeting on Wednesday 12th March at 7.30pm at Brunshaw Church

Circuit Heritage Meeting on Monday 17th March at 10am at Padiham Road Church

AND

Shadin Nasser visit to the area over the next week ...

Come and listen to the story of Shadin Nassar a Palestinian Christian from the Tent of Nations farm situated in the West Bank, Palestine at any of the following places.

Monday 3rd March 1-3pm at Hapton Methodist Church, Whitefield St. Hapton. BB12 7JY

Thursday 6th March 11am at Briercliffe Road Baptist /Methodist. Burnley. BB10 3DX

Sunday 9th March 1-4pm at 133 Manchester Road, Hapton. BB11 5RF

Monday 10th March 2pm at Brierfield Methodist Church, Brierfield. BB9 5NS

Church Events in the next 2 weeks

Brunshaw Tuesday Fellowship today on Tuesday 4th March at 1.30pm at Brunshaw

for the circuit Ash Wednesday service at Christ Church at 7pm on Wednesday. For Rick as he leads us and for Shadin as she shares her stories of life in Palestine.

for the unity of the churches as we share together in The World Day Of Prayer on Friday 7th March. May we hear God speak to us and say "I made you wonderful". Knowing this, may we begin to radiate and shine from within and may we learn how to treat every other person as made wonderful by God.

for the meeting of the circuit worship leaders and local preachers on Wednesday 12th March. We thank God for the faithfulness of those who have responded to God's call to lead worship and preach. We pray that God will call others to share in this ministry.

Lent message from Rev Rick Ormrod

Dear Friends,

Many of us enjoy travelling, going on journeys, and as we travel, we look forward with anticipation to our destination.

Preachers often use the metaphor of journey when speaking about Christian discipleship. We talk about the journey of life and of travelling with God. One of the Christian classics is John Bunyan's "Pilgrims Progress". Methodist Presbyters traditionally refer to their time in active ministry as their "years of travel". Jesus spoke of the narrow pathway that leads to eternal life.

As we approach Lent this metaphor of journeying seems especially appropriate as we remember the time Jesus spent in the wilderness. The accounts of this time in Matthew's and Luke's gospels focus on the three temptations which seem to come near the end of that time, but Jesus was in that wilderness for a considerable number of days. Why? What was Jesus doing? Jesus was undertaking his own personal spiritual journey in a place without distractions, in a place where he

Church. This meeting will begin the 2025 Syllabus with a lunch of pie and peas followed by their Annual General Meeting. Everyone welcome.

`Old School Worship` on Wednesday 5th March at 10.30am at Wheatley Lane Church. Led by Rev Adrian Perry. All welcome.

World Day of Prayer Services Friday 7th March at **St Mary Magdalene's**, Gawthorpe Rd, Burnley, BB12 0JS at 2pm AND at **St Anne's Church, Fence** at 2pm. All are welcome to both services.

A Crafty Saturday on Saturday 8th March at 10.30am-12noon at Wheatley Lane Church (see poster below)

Indoor Car Boot Sale on Saturday 8th March 8.30am - 12noon at Brierfield Church, Stalls inc table £5. Hot lunches and refreshments. Bookings taken on 07887855719. Admission Adults - 50p accompanied children are free. Everyone welcome

Greenbrook Tuesday Fellowship on Tuesday 11th March at 2pm at Greenbrook Church. Guest speaker Christine Barnes talking about Sierra Leone Part 2

Afternoon of ENTERTAINMENT on Sunday 16th March 2-4pm at Hapton Church (see poster below)

Future Circuit Events

Circuit Meeting on Tuesday 25th March at 7.30pm at Wheatley Lane Church

Circuit Prayer Breakfast on Saturday 5th April at 8am at Padiham Road Church

Circuit Easter Holiday Club Monday 14th – Wednesday 16th April 2025 10am- 12.30pm at Christ Church, Nelson. Please contact Claire to book a place.
circuitoffice@2101methodists.org

could guarantee solitude, thinking about the crucial ministry he was about to undertake.

This Lent you might want to think about those times when you have made real progress on your journey of Christian discipleship, you might want to reflect on those times when there have been traffic jams on life's road, circumstances that slowed your faith journey down or even brought it to a halt. You might like to reflect on those times where there have been distractions on the way that have taken you off the narrow path to God; or even side roads and shortcuts you have tried that have led in the wrong direction.

If you are unsure of the way, unsure if you are indeed heading down the path that leads to eternal life, then just remember some words of Jesus, who when Thomas asked "How can we know the way?" replied, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life".

I invite you to begin your Lent spiritual journey at Christ Church, Nelson, tomorrow (Wednesday 5th March) evening at 7pm when we will be holding our Circuit Ash Wednesday Service including the imposition of ashes and Holy Communion. The service will be led by the Circuit staff.

May God bless you all during this coming Lent season.

Yours in Christ
Rick

[The next newsletter will be on Tuesday 18th March 2025](#)

[Please forward any contributions to me before 5pm on Monday 17th March 2025.](#)

Claire Slack,
Circuit's Communication &
Information Coordinator - 07752278664
circuitoffice@2101methodists.org

Future Church Events

Brunshaw Tuesday Fellowship on Tuesday, 18th March at 2pm at Brunshaw Church. Richard Hoyle will talk to us about music. Everyone welcome.

Quiz Night on Friday 28th March (please note change of date) at 7pm at Higherford Church (see poster below)

Family News

Sending prayers to Roger Bradley and family, on the loss of his wife Helen last week, after a long health battle.

Community News

Renew for women on Monday 10th March at St Mary's Church, Rawtenstall at 7.15 (See poster below).

District News

District Lent Reflections for 2025

Each Sunday during Lent a video will be posted on the North West England Methodist District Facebook page. The video will introduce the theme for the week, with daily reflections and opportunities for you to share your comments and thoughts. The theme for these reflections are 'The Way of Jesus'. Why not take a look at them? First video due to be released this Sunday.

District Online Worship will start this Sunday 9 March at 6.30pm and be every second Sunday of the month, it will be on Zoom. This Sunday the guest speaker will be Rev. David Hardman, Methodist Liaison Officer in Jerusalem, joining us live from Jerusalem, to help us at the beginning our Lenten journey, 'The Way of Jesus'. Contact prayer@nwedmethodists.org.uk for log in details.

Posters



8th March at 10.30 a.m.

A get together for a social catch-up with coffee/tea/cake & biscuits and the chance to try out or just look in on a craft activity.

There'll be an activity for children too, if they want to come along.

A Crafty Saturday

Cuppa/Crafts/ECO/Chat
Wheatley Lane Methodist Church

This month we'll be decorating prayer jars. You might want to bring along small scissors, any craft items you wish to use and a lidded jar.

A variety of materials will be available to use.

There will also be a crochet corner for anyone wishing to learn. And the opportunity to learn how to knit too.

There will be a donations bowl to help cover any expenses. Our aim is to recycle as much as possible.

More information via Denise or Stella.



Hapton Methodist Church

(Whitefield St. Hapton BB12 7JY)

Invites you to an afternoon of

ENTERTAINMENT

with the :-

**"50 SOMETHINGS
VARIETY GROUP "**

Sunday 16th March 2-4pm

£10 inc. Refreshments.

Contact Bea Foster

07875517043

Renew
for women

Monday 10th March 2025
St. Mary's Church, Rawtenstall
7:15 Refreshments for 7:45 Start

"Don't look back"
Choosing to stay focused on the bright future God has planned for each of us
Speaker - Bishop Jill Duff

Free event - No need to book - just turn up!
For more information email renew@rossendalecofe.church

HIGHERFORD
METHODIST CHURCH

Quiz Night

Friday March 28th
7pm

INCLUDING
CORNED BEEF HASH £8