

# **BURNLEY & PENDLE CIRCUIT THE METHODIST CHURCH**

**God's grace in love and action**

Newsletter Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2025 – Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2025

## **Please pray for -**

Prayer of the day from the Methodist website.

## **A prayer for our senses**

Loving Lord, who made me for your delight,  
bless me with good use of the senses you  
created:

that I may use my sight to see the injustice in  
your world,  
and respond with my heart;

that I may use my hearing to listen to the voice  
of suffering,  
and respond with my heart;

that I may voice what is your will at all times, in  
all places  
and respond with my heart.

Loving Lord, who made me for your delight,  
bless me in your service.

Amen.

Pat Heynes, local preacher, North East Somerset and  
Bath Circuit

## **Circuit Events in the next 2 weeks**

**Circuit Heritage meeting on Monday 13<sup>th</sup>  
January 10am** at Padiham Road Church

## **Church Events in the next 2 weeks**

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

## **Future Circuit Events**

**Circuit Prayer Breakfast on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup>  
February 2025 at 8am** at Brierfield Church led by  
Sheila Chadwick

**Encounter on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2025 from  
11am** at Padiham Road Church. Guest speakers  
Christvin & Subashri Edbarg (see poster below)

**Circuit Bible and Prayer Focus Meeting on  
Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm.**

**Local Preachers' and Worship Leaders'  
meeting on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm**  
at Brunshaw Church

**[The next newsletter will be on Tuesday 21st  
January 2025](#)  
**[Please forward any contributions to me before  
5pm on Monday 20th January 2025.](#)****

Claire Slack,  
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Information Coordinator - 07752278664  
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Dear Friends,

I write to you at the start of our New Year, 2025, a year that is sure to be full of both promise and challenge for those of us who follow Jesus the Christ.

Some of you will no doubt have made New Year's resolution and it's always interesting to see how long people keep those resolutions.

I'm not making any resolution as 2025 begins, but I will be making a promise that is far more binding and, indeed, more than a promise and I hope and trust many of you will be making that same binding promise.

I refer, of course, to the annual Methodist Covenant Service and the promise we make to God within that service, a service that has been described as one of the jewels in the Methodist crown.

The Covenant promise can be scary to some people. In the past I have spoken to Methodists who go to Covenant Service but feel they cannot make the promise – they see it as too binding, as giving too much, and are not sure they can keep it.

The Covenant can be a dangerous promise to make – in my case led to my being called to Methodist ministry, totally disrupting my life, changing everything.

The Covenant promise is a promise to be disciples of Jesus. It is a promise to give everything we have and everything we are to him. It is a promise to put Jesus first, to make him the Lord of our lives.

I wrote earlier that some find this promise difficult to make and all of us find it very difficult to keep.

We make the promise in good faith, we want to keep it, but how do we do that?

Jesus said, "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a person remains in me and I in them they will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."

The secret to discipleship is to focus on Jesus. If all our focus is on Jesus then we can be his true disciples because he will give us the strength and power that we need to succeed.

We focus on Jesus by reading the Bible, especially the gospels. We focus on Jesus by praying regularly. We focus on Jesus by worshipping regularly in fellowship with other Christians.

I know from experience that the more I do these things the easier it is to be a disciple of Jesus; the more I neglect these things the harder it becomes.

We can make this Covenant promise this coming month, knowing that if we focus on Jesus he will help us to keep it.

Yours in Christ.

Rev Rick Ormrod

Circuit Superintendent

## Posters

Hapton Methodist Church

Invite you to an afternoon of  
fun & song  
with the :-

**"CLIVIGER** 

**UKULELE** 

**BAND"**

Sunday 19th January  
2-4pm  
**£10 inc Tea & Biscuits**

Burnley and Pendle Methodist Circuit  
Invite you to

**Encounter**


on Saturday 8th February 2025  
at Padiham Road Methodist Church  
BB12 8AD

Guest Speakers : Christvin & Subashri Edbarg

Coffee from 11am  
11.30 - 12.15 Testimonies by speakers  
12.15 Lunch

Free event, though donations accepted on the day.

Please contact Kath [kaththeyworth@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:kaththeyworth@hotmail.co.uk)  
or Denise [denart@sky.com](mailto:denart@sky.com) for further information  
and to book your place, stating any dietary requirements  
before Monday 3rd Feb 2025.

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