

Sheffield District

*serving the Methodist Church in South Yorkshire,
North Nottinghamshire and North East Derbyshire*

PRAYER HANDBOOK

2018-2019

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INTRODUCTION

During recent years, we have had the opportunity to engage in the “Thy Kingdom Come” initiative, a global prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray for more people to come to know Jesus. During this coming year, we will once again be encouraged, between Ascension (May 31st) and Pentecost (June 9th) to participate in this initiative, trusting that through our participation our own relationship with Christ will be deepened and we might bring others to know Jesus or know him better. Please listen out for ways in which this District will help and resource you to be part of this initiative and if you want to know more about this, please do be in touch with our District “Thy Kingdom Come” champion, Revd Jonathan Haigh whose contact details can be found in our District Directory.

However, prayer is for everyday and not just for the period between Ascension and Pentecost. Every aspect of our lives is the stuff of prayer and there is nothing too large or too insignificant to bring into our conversations with God.

So as we continue to explore together how we exercise mission and ministry in what are challenging days for the church, it is vital that our conversations and decisions are prayerfully made. It is important that we hear what God is saying to us and be alert to where God is at work among us and within our communities.

I hope therefore, that this Prayer Handbook, which seeks to give us a reminder of who is serving and what is happening across the life of this District, will prove to be a useful resource to all of us in our prayer life. May our use of it give us a greater sense of belonging to the Sheffield Methodist District and of being part of the world-wide family of God.

May we never cease to pray together, learn together and join in with whatever God is doing around us so that transformation may take place in us and others and God's kingdom may come.

Gill



Gill

District Chair

September 2018

Day 1

*Praise the Lord all nations! Praise him, all peoples!
His love for us is strong and his faithfulness is eternal.*

Praise the Lord! (Psalm 117: 1-2)

God of the future, give us the wisdom to know when to let go of old ways and the courage to set off on new adventures. Through Jesus Christ. Amen

We pray for the Sheffield District:

In North Nottinghamshire, North East Derbyshire and South Yorkshire, in city, town and village, the people seek to be faithful to the gospel in their place.

We give thanks for all who give generously of their time to serve as officers and advisors or as members of groups and committees.

Thank you, Lord, for all that you have done, are doing, and will do, in the District. We give you all the praise and glory. Amen

Please pray for:

- Chair of the Sheffield District – Revd Gill Newton
- The office staff – Katrin Hackett and Val Higgins
- Those employed by the District
 - Mission Development Support Worker: Neil Harland
 - District Safeguarding Officer: awaiting appointment
- All those who offer their time as District Officers and Advisors

God of all wisdom, we ask that you will empower with your Holy Spirit all those working for you in the Methodist District. May they be able to rejoice in seeing you at work in these areas. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen

Learning - *We will help people become, learn
and grow into confident disciples of Jesus*

Day 2

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light. (1 Peter 2: 9)

Lord, help those who work for you, in whatever way, to face the tasks in your strength, both when things are going well and also when they are hard. We ask that you will continue to guide, direct and strengthen in all things, in the name of Jesus we ask all this. Amen

We pray for the Sheffield Circuit; giving thanks that although problems are as real as ever, there is a growing sense of Circuit feeling and a sense of unity among the churches within the circuit.

Please pray for:

The new Co-Superintendency team:

- Revd Sally Coleman and the churches at:
Stanwood; Wesley Ebenezer at Walkley; Wesley Hall
- Revd Tim Crome and the churches at:
Banner Cross; Bents Green
- Revd Mark Goodhand and the churches at:
Firth Park; St Peter's Ellesmere (LEP)
- Revd James Morley and the churches at:
Apperknowle; Coal Aston; St Paul's Dronfield

We ask you Lord, that you will fill all your servants with grace and power, to serve you to the best of their ability, and for your glory.

Lord of the ages, may our spirits be one with your Spirit, that through living Kingdom values we may truly be the Church of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen

Changing - We will support Circuits and local churches as they respond to the transforming work of God's spirit

Day 3

The Lord said to Abram, "Leave your country, your relatives, and your father's home, and go to a land that I am going to show you."

(Genesis 12: 1-2)

Thank you, Lord, for all your many promises, more than we can count. Help us to show our gratitude to you, and your love to others day by day throughout our lives. Amen

We pray for the Sheffield Circuit; giving thanks for the ways in which community engagement is developing across the circuit and the variety of ways in which churches are living out God's mission in the city and surrounding areas.

God of all wisdom and grace, we pray that many people in the Circuits may come to know Jesus as their own personal Saviour and friend during the coming year. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen

Please pray for:

- Revd Phillip Borkett and the churches at:
Church of Christ in Darnall (LEP) Victoria Stafford Road
- Revd Will Fletcher and the churches at:
Beacon at Broomhill, Nether Green and Stephen Hill; Knowle Top (Stannington)
- Revd Jonathan Haigh and the churches at:
Greenhill; Victoria Hall
- Revd Gail Hunt and the churches at:
Dore; Totley Rise
- Revd Gareth Jones and the churches at:
Highfield Trinity; St Andrew's Psalter Lane Church (LEP)

We give you the praise and glory, O Lord, for all your goodness and loving kindness. Thank you for all the work that is taking place in order to tell others about Jesus. May we never fail to rejoice in all that you are doing. Amen

Joining in - We will resource Circuits and local churches as they join in God's mission both within their own life and the life of the world.

Day 4

*Jesus said "I have come that they may have life,
and have it to the full." (John 10: 10)*

Almighty God, we thank you for your continuing promise to be with us. As we travel through change and challenge, help us to see possibilities that you present and may we be strengthened by your holy presence. Amen

We pray for the Sheffield Circuit; giving thanks for all the churches who have had the vision to renovate and refurbish, to re-invent their mission, and for the positive attitude of small congregations in somewhat difficult situations.

Please pray for:

- Revd Katherine Leonowicz and the churches at:
Brightholmlee; Hillsborough Trinity; Wisewood
- Revd Ian Lucraft and the churches at:
Christ Church Stocksbridge (LEP); Crane Moor; Green Moor
- Revd Debora Marschner and the churches at:
Handsworth; William temple (LEP); Woodhouse Trinity
- Revd Sandra Marshall and the churches at:
Eckington Methodist with St Luke's Church (LEP); Intake;
Mosborough; Trinity@Killamarsh; Trinity@Renishaw
- Revd Henry C Ohakah and the churches at:
Gleadless Valley; Woodseats
- Revd Jill Pullan and the churches at:
Chapelton; Grenoside; High Green

We ask, Lord, that others may see your love in action in the lives of Christians. Touch their hearts and lives by your Holy Spirit, that they also will want to praise and serve your name. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen

Learning - *We will help people become, learn
and grow into confident disciples of Jesus*

Day 5

As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things. (Mark 6: 34)

Thank you, Lord, that you are the great and mighty God with whom all things are possible. We praise you for all that you have done in the past, all that you are doing today and all that you will do in the future. Help us to keep both trusting and praising you in all circumstances of our lives. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen

We pray for the Sheffield Circuit; giving thanks for patterns of collaborative team ministry of lay and ordained among the churches, and the developing relationships between Methodist congregations and their Anglican neighbours.

Please pray for:

- Revd James Grayson and the Stocksbridge Christian Centre
- Revd Joy Adams and her work as Chaplain at the Whirlow Spirituality Centre
- Revd Dr Catrin Harland-Davies and her work as Chaplain in Sheffield University and Sheffield Hallam University
- Revd Judith Jessop and the Open House ministry at Parson Cross
- Revd Jen Mullis OBE serving beyond the walls of the church
- Revd Ric Stott, the Venture FX pioneer and his work with the artistic community

We pray, Lord, that you will continue to help us to be faithful witnesses to all that you have done, in our own lives and in the lives of others. May we continue to know your Holy Spirit's presence with us at all times. May all that we say and do, be to your honour and glory. In Jesus' name we ask this. Amen

Changing - *We will support Circuits and local churches as they respond to the transforming work of God's spirit*

Day 6

*He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches
(Revelation 2: 29)*

Father God, thank you that we can know Jesus as our Lord and Saviour. May we always be ready to give an answer for the faith that is in us, and help us now and always to give all praise and glory to you. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen

We pray for the Sheffield Circuit; giving thanks for the many ways in which community engagement is developing across the circuit; for the local preachers and worship leaders who play such a vital role in leading worship in the churches; for the lay workers and those in ecumenical partnership who enrich our ministry.

Please pray for:

- Revd Chirstopher Stebbing at St Luke's Church (LEP)
- Revd Julie Upton at William Temple (LEP)
- Melissa Quinn and the churches at:
Frecheville; Gleadless; Hollinsend
- The churches at: Carterknowle; Creswick Greave; Hatfield House Lane; Loxley Park; Millhouses; Mount Tabor; Mount View; Pitsmoor; St Andrew's Gosforth Valley (LEP); St Mary's Unstone (LEP); Tinsley;
- The Circuit Office Staff: Ruth Ballantyne; David Burton; Heather Rotherham; Debbie Wheeler
- PXI Community Worker: Nick Waterfield
- Youth & Children's Co-ordinator: Jonathan Buckley

Lord God, in a world of rapid changes for better and for worse, enable your church to act prophetically and pastorally to the glory of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Joining in - *We will resource Circuits and local churches as they join in God's mission both within their own life and the life of the world.*

Day 7

For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. (Ephesians 2: 10)

Thank you Lord, that from you we are given the strength and will to serve in so many varied ways. May we always be ready to answer your call to service in whatever sphere you may wish, and may all that we do be done only to your honour and glory. Amen

We pray for those involved in education, giving thanks for the work of the Urban Theology Union and Cliff College and their support and encouragement to all involved in mission and evangelism.

Please pray for:

- The staff and volunteers at the Urban Theology Union as they discern what it means to be a member-led ecumenical charity supporting urban mission
- The staff and students at Cliff College including:
 - Revd Ashley Cooper—Principal
 - Deacon David Hunt
 - Revd George Bailey
- The continuing success of Festival at Cliff College
- All who are considering applying for college courses
- The Methodist Day Schools:
 - Bakewell Methodist Junior School
 - St Andrews CE/Methodist Aided Primary School
 - Emmanuel CE/Methodist Junior Academy

Lord, we ask that through the Holy Spirit, you will touch the lives of all those for whom we pray, in a way which will renew their strength, reinforce their calling, and release the gifts and graces they need to serve you well. Amen

Learning - *We will help people become, learn and grow into confident disciples of Jesus*

Day 8

At the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Philippians 2: 10-11)

God of power, may the boldness of your Spirit transform us, may the gentleness of your Spirit lead us, and may the gifts of your Spirit equip us to serve and worship you now and always. Amen

We pray for the Chesterfield Circuit; giving thanks for the partnership of lay and ordained within the circuit and between Chesterfield and Bolsover & Staveley Circuit.

Here I am, Lord, I've come to do your will.
Here am I, Lord, in your presence, I'm still.

Please pray for:

- Revd Julie Minns and the church at Central
- Revd Tracey Harris and the churches at:
Barlow & Cutthorpe; Loundsley Green Church (LEP); Storrs Road
- Revd Margaret Mwilu and the churches at:
Derby Road; Hasland; Whittington Moor
- Revd Peter Green at Loundsley Green (LEP)

Lord, you are alert to the cries of the oppressed and the wounded as well as the comfortable and self-centred, both in the church and the world. Drive from us all complacency and inertia that we may be disturbed and captivated and sent out by your Son, Jesus, who came to set people free. Amen

Changing - We will support Circuits and local churches as they respond to the transforming work of God's spirit

Day 9

I will call to mind the deeds of the Lord; I will remember your wonders of old. I will meditate on all your work and muse on your mighty deeds. You are the God who works wonders: You have displayed your might among the peoples. (Psalm 77: 11-12, 14)

Keep your people, Lord, in the arms of your embrace. Shelter them under your wings. Be their light in darkness. Be their hope in distress. Be their calm in anxiety. Be strength in their weakness. Be their comfort in pain. Be their song in the night. Amen

We pray for the Chesterfield Circuit; giving thanks for the steady commitment of those who work with children and young people, and for the enthusiasm of young people exploring and expressing faith.

May our work be fulfilling to ourselves, to our community, but above all bring You the glory. Amen

Please pray for:

- Tim Rossell—Youth Work
- Lauren Rossell—Mission and Outreach Enabler
- Karen Perry—Circuit Administrator

Wondrous, Holy God, you create people - of immense diversity - in your own image, you live and work in our midst. You have shown us new patterns of living and loving in Jesus. You give us strength and wisdom by your Holy Spirit. Bless us as we live and work with all your people. Forgive us all our betrayals of Jesus our pattern. Show us how to pour out your Spirit on all flesh. Amen

Joining in - We will resource Circuits and local churches as they join in God's mission both within their own life and the life of the world.

Day 10

*The Lord your God is with you, he is mighty to save.
He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love,
he will rejoice over you with singing. (Zephaniah 3: 17)*

God, source and centre of all being, grant us the gifts of your grace that, walking in your way and strengthened by your life, we may journey through this world in your peace, and rest in heaven with your saints. This we ask through Christ our Lord. Amen

(Gerhard Tersteegen)

We pray for the Bolsover & Staveley Circuit, giving thanks for new ways of working which enable more effective engagement in the mission to which we are called.

Please pray for:

- Revd Sean Adair and the churches at:
Barlborough; Bolsover; Clowne; Duckmanton; Hillstown
- Revd Richard Harris and the churches at:
Brimington (Hall Rd); Brimington Common; New Brimington;
Staveley
- Revd Geoffrey Fisher and the churches at:
Barrow Hill; Inkersall
- Revd Jane Harris and her work as a Hospital Chaplain

God, in whom we live and move and have our being, help us to recognise your presence in creation, in people we meet, in the worship of church and in world events. Overcome our blindness and deafness, that seeing and hearing you we may live to your glory. Amen

Learning - *We will help people become, learn
and grow into confident disciples of Jesus*

Day 11

But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you, to give a reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect. (1 Peter 3: 15)

Lord, may we live our lives that we do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you. So may we seek first your kingdom and its righteousness, love you and our neighbours, and hold fast to those things which are good, true and eternal. Amen

We pray for the Bolsover & Staveley Circuit, giving thanks for the volunteers and staff in the Freedom Community Project who are offering their distinct work on more and more sites within and beyond the Circuit.

We pray to God today for the places where we work, in education, in commerce or industry, in arts or leisure - that there we may be people who have no need to be ashamed. Lord, help us to care more about being reliable than about desiring popularity. In our relationships help us to show others that they are personally valued - just as we are valued in your sight. In Jesus' name. Amen

Please pray for:

- Mark North and the Freedom Community Project, that it may continue to be a place where all can find a welcome and place.

Help us, eternal God, to look around and find reason for praise; to be aware of opportunity and find reason to give thanks; to notice signs of need and be ready to respond; and to feel the pain of all and be there to help with love. Amen

Changing - We will support Circuits and local churches as they respond to the transforming work of God's spirit

Day 12

So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! (2 Corinthians 5: 17)

Dear God, help us to appreciate the uniqueness of others. May those around us see unity when they look at the Body of Christ. Generous God, give us the grace, the compassion and the vision to account for the hope we have in you, in ways that honour you and bring you glory. Amen

We pray for the many projects supported by the Sheffield District, giving thanks especially for the work of Who Is Your Neighbour? and the art gallery at 35 Chapel Walk.

Please pray for:

- The staff of Who Is Your Neighbour?
 - Tariq Bashir—Project Manager
 - Michele Davison-Administrator
 - The many volunteers who support the project with time and expertise
- The staff and volunteers at 35 Chapel Walk
 - Faiza Omar and Naomi Gordon-McKibbon—Centre Managers
 - Liz Dickinson—Art Sales Co-ordinator
 - All who can be found in this safe space that it continues to be a place where lives are transformed and a place where marginalised voices can be heard

Lord, as you plant seeds of hope in our hearts, may they produce faith and love through Jesus Christ our Lord. We give thanks, Lord, for the variety of God's people, and the evidence this brings to us of your creative genius. Amen

Joining in - *We will resource Circuits and local churches as they join in God's mission both within their own life and the life of the world.*

Day 13

May we have the courage to take more risks for you, the vision to dream more dreams with you, and the faith to walk in step with you onwards into your future. Amen

*Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised in the city of our God.
His holy mountain, beautiful in elevation, is the joy of all the earth.
(Psalm 48: 1-2)*

Lord God, whose power encompasses the vast immensity of space, from fiery planet to dust and darkness, you are our refuge and strength, our joy and our eternal hope. We thank you for our life here in this world, and pray that we may be ready to take up the challenges and opportunities it offers, and may be emboldened to move forward in faith, in the sure knowledge of your steadfast love, which is from everlasting to everlasting, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

We pray for the Peak Circuit, giving thanks for opportunities and actions to offer renewed mission and worship opportunities.

Please pray for:

- Revd Adrian Perry and the churches at:
Bakewell; Baslow; Calver; Castleton; Great Longstone; Litton;
Rowsley; Tideswell-Fountain Square Church (LEP); Youlgreave
- Revd Richard Towle and the churches at:
Bamford; Bradwell; Edale; Grindleford & Hathersage; Hope;
Sparrowpit; Woodlands
- Deacon David Hunt

Lord, help all those who work for you, in whatever way, to face the tasks in your strength, both when things are going well and also when they are hard. We ask that you will continue to guide, direct and strengthen in all things, in the name of Jesus we ask all this. Amen

Learning - *We will help people become, learn
and grow into confident disciples of Jesus*

Day 14

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8: 38-39)

Lord, hasten the day when those who fear you in every nation will come from the east and west, from north and south, and sit at the table in your Kingdom, and Lord, let your glory be seen in our land.
Amen

We pray for the Peak Circuit, giving thanks for the acts of witness offered by the Bakewell Show and Chatsworth Country Fair.

Please pray for:

- Karen Perry—Young People’s Development Worker
- Catherine Simm—Circuit Administrator
- The smaller churches who are seeking to find a renewed sense of mission, that they are encouraged in their journey
- Those called to leadership in circuit, church and groups, that they may continue to discern the word of God, listen to the people and share and lead with wisdom.

Glorious God, who in Christ was humbled for a time, send us into the world to share your humility. Give us, as Christ, the courage to face the reality of who we really are, and know with Christ, the gracious love that keeps us safe. Amen

Changing - We will support Circuits and local churches as they respond to the transforming work of God’s spirit

Day 15

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

(Lamentations 3: 22-23)

Loving God, we give you our thanks that you have guided and encouraged us during this past year. You have not shielded us from heartache or the pains of human living; but you have loved us, offered us your strength and healing inspired us and gently drawn us in new directions. We do thank and praise your holy name. Amen.

We pray for the work across the Peak National Park, giving thanks for the vision and commitment from the three Districts who support the work of the Peak Park Rural Development Enabler.

Lord God, may those who come to the hills looking for peace and tranquillity, find not only the rest they are searching for, but may also find you, their creator, helper and guide. Amen

Please pray for:

- Deacon Lorraine Brown, the Peak Park Rural Development Enabler
- The management group which supports and encourages the work undertaken
- The vision of the Care Farm, that this will be a place where young people can find value in themselves and their work

Thank you, Lord, that from you we are given strength and will to serve in so many varied ways. May we always be ready to answer your call to service in whatever sphere you may wish, and may all that we do be done only to your honour and glory. Amen

Joining in - We will resource Circuits and local churches as they join in God's mission both within their own life and the life of the world.

Day 16

Wanting to justify himself, the man asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbour?" ... Jesus said, "Which of these three do you think was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise." (Luke 10: 29, 36-37)

God beyond borders, we bless you for strange places and different dreams, for the demands and diversity of a wider world, for the new ground wher broken stems can take root, grow and blossom. We bless you for the friendship of strangers, the richness of other cultures and the painful gift of freedom. Amen

We pray for all involved in Chaplaincy, giving thanks for those who answer the call to share their cloak with others.

Please pray for:

- The University Chaplaincy Department
- Those involved in hospital chaplaincy, both employed and as volunteers
- The Prison Chaplains in Doncaster; Hatfield; Lindholme; Moorland; Ranby
- The Workplace Chaplaincy in Derbyshire
- Those involved in chaplaincy at the Hospices: Ashgate; Barnsley; Bassetlaw; St Luke's, Sheffield and St John's, Balby

Faithful God, in darkness you are our light; in danger you are our shield; in weakness you are our strength, in the unknown you are our map and compass. Help us today and always to put our trust in you. Amen

Learning - *We will help people become, learn and grow into confident disciples of Jesus*

Day 17

In my opinion whatever we may have to go through now is less than nothing compared with the magnificent future God has planned for us. The whole creation is on tiptoe to see the wonderful sight of the children of God coming into their own. (Romans 8: 18-19)

Almighty God, Trinity of grace, love and power, unite us with all your people and refresh and renew us with your presence. Accept all that we offer you, and may all we do bring honour and glory to your holy name. Amen

We pray for the Doncaster Circuit, giving thanks for the lay and ministerial leadership and the faithfulness of the people.

Help us, Lord, to seek and wait for you. Help us to discern your ways and walk in them. Take us beyond our limited horizons and may we dream new dreams. Show us your will and ways that our lives may reflect your glory. Amen

Please pray for:

- Revd Tom Read and the churches at:
Bentley; Flintwood; Priory Place, Scrawthorpe; St Andrew's
- Revd Jon Bellfield and the churches at:
Alder Grove; Carr House Wesley; Sprotbrough Road; The King's Cross Church
- Revd Dr Frank Okai-Sam and the churches at:
Adwick-le-Street; Auckley; Bawtry; Harworth; Rossington; Sprotbrough; Tickhill
- Revd Christine Sutherby and the churches at: Barnby Dun; Dunsville; Hatfield Woodhouse; Stainforth; Thorne

Tis Jesus, the first and the last, whose Spirit shall guide us safe home; we'll praise Him for all that is past and trust Him for all that is to come. Amen

Changing - We will support Circuits and local churches as they respond to the transforming work of God's spirit

Day 18

Jesus himself came up and walked along with them... Then their eyes were opened and they recognised him... Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. (Luke 24: 15b, 31a, 45)

Generous God, touch us again with the fire of your Spirit and renew in us all the grace of our baptism; that we may profess the one true faith and live in love and unity with all who are baptised into Christ. Amen

We pray for the Doncaster Circuit, giving thanks for the work being done with children and young people and the richness of the different approaches to worship.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation. You have called us out of darkness into light. Open our eyes to your presence. Open our ears to your call. Open our hearts to your love, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen

Please pray for:

- Afsaneh Alba—Lay Pastor to the Iranian Community
- Susanna Brooks-Lay Pastor, and the churches at:
Auckley; Cantley;
- Alice Curry—Lay Pastor
- Sandra Durrant—Lay Pastor
- Amy Ogilvie—RE Team Co-ordinator
- Barry Parker—Circuit Administrator

O Lord we pray that in whatever work, the vision of those in need may never be something of which we lose sight. Give patience and strength to those who serve you day to day. May all be done in such a way that it brings honour and glory to you. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Joining in - We will resource Circuits and local churches as they join in God's mission both within their own life and the life of the world.

Day 19

*Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink.
Whoever believes in me, the scripture has said,
will have streams of living water flowing from within. (John 7: 37)*

Loving God, who by your presence can transform every meal into a remembrance of Jesus' death and resurrection and a foretaste of heaven; help us so to offer to You whatever we have in thanksgiving, to divide and share it, that we may be fed and feed others in your name. Amen

We pray for the Barnsley Circuit, giving thanks for their courage to face challenges with a renewed sense of mission, creating communities of sharing, support and encouragement

Please pray for:

- Revd Mick Neal and the churches in Barnsley South:
Birdwell; Darfield Wesley; Great Houghton; Hoyland; Pilley; Valley
Darfield; Wombwell
- Revd Cameron Stirk, Revd Ben Scrivens and the churches in
Barnsley North West:
Barugh; Buckley; Emmanuel; Kexborough; Pogmoor; Silkstone
Common; Dodworth; Higham
- Revd Marian Olsen, Revd Claire Rawlinson and the churches in
Barnsley North East:
Brierley; Cudworth; Hemsworth; Monk Bretton; New Hope;
Staincross; Shafton; Ryhill (St Paul's)

O God, our companion, we thank you for the ways in which you have guided and led the church through past years. We thank you for all the signs of new life around and amongst us today. Through Jesus Christ.
Amen

Learning - *We will help people become, learn
and grow into confident disciples of Jesus*

Day 20

But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. (2 Corinthians 4: 7)

O Lord, you are the Almighty and Living God. Thank you that you give us your strength through your Holy Spirit. Help us to live so that by our lives we may show our thanks to you for all that you have done. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen

We pray for the Barnsley Circuit, giving thanks for the faithful witness and service of many of the church members

God of love, God of wisdom, you have created and sustained the church through many generations. Help us to be the church in our day and age, living out our high calling in Jesus our Lord. Amen

Please pray for:

- Ellie Peet—Pastoral Worker
- Jayne Wragg—Circuit Administrator

Breathe your Spirit into our lives, Lord. Set us free from habits or traditions that no longer allow you to use us effectively. Touch our tongues with holy fire, that we may proclaim the gospel in ways relevant to our community. Fill all our activities with the love of Christ, that what we do may serve the coming of your Kingdom. In his name we ask. Amen

Changing - We will support Circuits and local churches as they respond to the transforming work of God's spirit

Day 21

He asked me, "Son of man, do you see this?" Then he led me back to the bank of the river ... I saw a great number of trees on each side of the river. He said to me, "This water flows towards the eastern region and goes down into the Arabah, where it enters the sea. When it empties into the sea, the water there becomes fresh. Swarms of living creatures will live wherever the river flows ... where the river flows, everything will live." (Exeiel 47: 6-9)

Lord God, urge us away from the security of our Church to share with others, God's promise of freedom, God's hatred of injustice, God's dream of equality and God's deep desire that all people may know a future of hope and peace through faith in him. Amen

We pray for those on the pioneering pathway, giving thanks for their willingness to answer your call.

We ask, Lord, that as others see your love in action in the lives of Christians, you will touch their hearts and lives, that they also will want to come to you, and serve others in your name. We ask this for Jesus' sake. Amen

Please pray for:

- Those new expressions of church taking place across the District
- Those who have already answered a call to become involved in the Methodist Pioneering Pathways and those who are considering taking this step

Help us, Lord, in changing times to be communities of faith, hope and love, so that people may be led into communion with you, through Christ our Lord. Amen

Joining in - We will resource Circuits and local churches as they join in God's mission both within their own life and the life of the world.

Day 22

*I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears Him and does what is right is acceptable to Him
(Acts 10: 34-35)*

Almighty God, we praise and thank you for all that you have given to us. We sometimes find it hard to appreciate everything that you have done. May we continue to give you all praise and glory. Amen

We pray for the Rotherham & Deane Valley Circuit, giving thanks for the ongoing projects within the circuit that bring communities together and inspire individuals to believe in themselves.

Lord of all, in all the changing scenes of life may we be guided by your love and presence. Amen

Please pray for:

- Revd Jo A.Siddall and the churches at:
Central (Aston); Piccadilly; Talbot Lane
- Revd Karen Beecham and the churches at:
Broom; Clifton; St John's Church, Swinton
- Revd Jenny Park and the churches at:
Princess Street; Trinity Church (Wath); Whiston

Living God, breathe your Holy Spirit into the lives of your people. Lead us in your ways and equip us by your spirit. Give us the courage to put our trust in you all the days of our lives. Amen.

Learning - *We will help people become, learn
and grow into confident disciples of Jesus*

Day 23

Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done, and proclaim that his name is exalted.

(Isaiah 12: 4)

God of all creation, whose Spirit brings life and vitality, may our lives so reflect your glory and beauty that Christ's love is made known and others are drawn to know you. Amen

We pray for the Rotherham & Dearne Valley Circuit, giving thanks for the positive dialogue and mutual support amongst differing faith leaders, leading to a better understanding of each other's viewpoint

Lord, help us so to live to your praise and glory, that others may find in you their peace and joy. Amen

Please pray for:

- Revd Lynn Broadhead and Holy Trinity LEP at Thorpe Hesley
- Revd Simon Copley and Greasbrough LEP
- Wayne Ashton—Lay Worker, and the churches at:
Furlong Road; Rawmarsh; Wickersley
- Karen Dunn—Pastoral Assistant
- Anne Holmes—Circuit Administrator
- Brett Jackson—Social Media and Website editor

May the love of the faithful Creator,
the peace of the wounded Healer,
the joy of the challenging Spirit,
surround and encourage us today and always. Amen

Changing - *We will support Circuits and local churches as they respond to the transforming work of God's spirit*

Day 24

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law. (Galatians 5: 22)

Loving God, may your Holy Spirit fill us, equip us and encourage us, so that in all we do, in our churches and our community, we may witness to your love. Amen

We pray for the work of the Learning Network (formerly the Discipleship & Ministries Learning Network), giving thanks for the relationships enjoyed across the region as creative partnerships continue to flourish.

O Lord, I pray that in you I'll break the ground both fresh and new. As a student let me stand, break the hardness of the land with your forgiving Father-hand. (*Northumbria Community*)

Please pray for:

- Rachel McCallam—Regional Co-ordinator
- The Learning & Development Officers:
 - Fiona (Fidge) Fidgin
 - Revd Graham Jones
 - Sara (Siggy) Parratt-Halbert
 - Revd Carla Quenet

Lord Jesus, God of all hopefulness, for the working out of your purposes in the world today and for the living hope you have given us through the coming, life, death, resurrection and ascension of our Lord Jesus, we give you our thanks and praise. Amen

Joining in - We will resource Circuits and local churches as they join in God's mission both within their own life and the life of the world.

Day 25

*"For surely I know the plans I have to you," says the Lord;
"plans for your welfare and not for harm,
to give you a future with hope." (Jeremiah 29: 11)*

Eternal and ever-living God, for the way in which you have guided us and continue to lead us, we praise you! You have shared in our joy and comforted us in our sorrow; give us strength in our weakness and the confidence to believe that we are your people, constantly being redeemed by your grace and mercy. Amen

We pray for the Trinity Circuit, giving thanks for the dedication and commitment of so many to the work of this circuit.

Please pray for:

- Revd Peter Sheasby and the churches at:
Grove Street; Hallcroft; Rampton (LEP Fellowship); The Church in the Leverton (LEP); Tuxford
- Revd Diane Grice and the churches at:
Carlton; Dinnington; North Anston; South Anston; Woodsetts
- Revd Jen Mullis OBE and the churches at:
Harthill; Whitwell

Lord, by your grace, may our lives show forth the fruit of your Spirit, that your kingdom may come, and your will may be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Amen

Learning - *We will help people become, learn
and grow into confident disciples of Jesus*

Day 26

O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is found power to redeem. It is he who will redeem Israel from all its iniquities. (Psalm 130: 7-8)

This life is not a state of being righteous, but rather, of growth in righteousness; not a state of being healthy, but a period of healing; not a state of being, but of becoming; not a state of rest, but of exercise and activity. We are not yet what we shall be, but we grow towards it; the process is not yet finished, but is still going on. All does not yet shine with glory; nevertheless all is being purified. Amen
(Martin Luther)

We pray for the Trinity Circuit, giving thanks for the good relationships with Anglicans in Covenant Partnership, and the ecumenical opportunities in all places in the circuit.

Please pray for:

- Revd Mark Cantrill and the church at North Wheatley
- Revd Geoffrey Clarke and The Crossing Church & Centre in Worksop and the church in Wales, Kiveton
- The team ministry of:
 - Revd Sue Caddy
 - Revd Felicity Ferriter

We are called to share Good News. Let us live, in the strength and power of the Holy Spirit, sharing the compassion and love of Christ, and rejoicing in the hope that is to come through faith in him. Amen.

Changing - We will support Circuits and local churches as they respond to the transforming work of God's spirit

Day 27

Praise the Lord, you that are his servants, praise the name of the Lord. Blessed be the name of the Lord now and for evermore. From the rising of the sun to its setting, may the Lord's name be praised. (Psalm 113: 1-3) Praise God, who calls all people to fullness of life;

Praise God, who calls all people to fullness of life;

Praise God, who gives us the time to pursue the call;

Praise God, who opens new doors to new ways and new opportunities in life.

Praise God! Amen

We pray for the Supernumerary Presbyters & Deacons, giving thanks for their experience and gifts which have been and continue to be offered to support the work of the local churches.

Please pray for:

- Those whose health is declining, both physically or mentally, that they may continue to be supported by your loving presence
- Those who continue to serve on committees and groups, sharing their knowledge and understanding to benefit all
- Those who have gone before, leaving loved ones behind

Lord, we ask that you will bring a real sense of your presence to all those in need at this time. May they be assured of your Holy Spirit's guiding wherever they are. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen

Lord, in your love you created us; Christ, by your love you set us free; Spirit, through love, you nurture and sustain us. We open our lives to you and to all you give to us and our brothers and sisters in the world. Amen

Joining in - We will resource Circuits and local churches as they join in God's mission both within their own life and the life of the world.

Day 28

*My friends, choose seven men who are respected and wise
and filled with God's Spirit.*

We will put them in charge of these things. (Acts 6: 3)

We pray Lord, that in all the work of administration, those involved may never lose sight of the vision of your needy world. Give them patience and strength in all they do for you. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen

We pray for all who serve on groups and committees in the District and for those who chair and convene, giving thanks that they are willing to give so freely of their time, knowledge and experience

Please pray for:

- The District Leadership Team
- The (Chair's) Nomination Committee
- The Grants Committee
- The Lay Employment Sub-Committee
- The Learning & Development Group
- The Manse Advisory Group
- The Property Consents Panel
- The Sabbaticals Group
- The Safeguarding Group
- The Probationers Panel
- The Candidates Panel

Lord, grant to us the guidance of your Spirit, in our personal, church, circuit and district lives. Amen

Learning - *We will help people become, learn
and grow into confident disciples of Jesus*

Day 29

For God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. (2 Corinthians 4: 6)

God, you are the Father of all. We trust in your love and power. Help us to praise you in all that we say and do. We ask this in Christ's name.
Amen

We pray for our neighbouring Districts and their Chairs, giving thanks for the different ways in which we all work together.

Please pray for:

- The Yorkshire Plus Learning Network region:
 - Yorkshire North and East (29) and their Chair, Revd Leslie Newton
 - Yorkshire West (27) and their Chair, Revd Roger Walton
- The Peak National Park region
 - Manchester and Stockport (19) and their Chair, Revd Andrew Lunn
 - Nottingham & Derby (22) and their Chair, Revd Loraine Mellor
 - Chester and Stoke-on-Trent (11) and their Chair, Revd Peter Barber
- Our neighbour to the east
 - Lincolnshire (17) and their Chair, Revd Bruce Thompson

O Lord God, thank you that you equip us with your strength and that you keep us by your power and love. Help us to remember that you are the Almighty and Living God. Amen

Changing - We will support Circuits and local churches as they respond to the transforming work of God's spirit

Day 30

O the depths of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgements and how inscrutable his ways! For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory for ever and ever Amen (Romans 11: 33, 36)

Our Father, you are far beyond us and yet close to us in love. Your name be revered on our lips, your rule be established in our hearts, your will be found in our lives. Amen

We pray for all Local Preachers and Leaders of Worship, giving thanks for all who have answered the call to play this vital role in the church. May they continue to be encouraged and upheld by our prayers.

Lord, we ask that your Holy Spirit will continue to bring praise to your name through all that is being done in these areas. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen

Please pray for:

- The Local Preachers' meetings, that they may be a source of encouragement and inspiration to all who attend
- Those whose health means they no longer feel able to lead worship, that they continue to encourage others to answer the call
- Those for whom this is the first step in a call to ministry, that they are supported and nurtured along the way

Lord, you are our help and strength, enable us to discern and meet the challenges that face us in our time and place. Amen

Joining in - We will resource Circuits and local churches as they join in God's mission both within their own life and the life of the world.

Day 31

I waited patiently for the Lord. The Lord heard my cry. He pulled me out of the pit, out of the miry clay. God set me safe upon a rock and made my feet secure. He taught me to sing a new song, a song of praise to God. (Psalm 40)

We thank you, Lord, that you hear and answer our prayers. We bring our prayers to you confident of this and praise you that as we call, you answer. We give you the glory through James's name. Amen

Pray for your own church and circuit, giving thanks for the way in which God has worked in and through it in the past; and will continue to do so now and in the future.

Lord, may we embark on each new day with fresh energy and enthusiasm because we are confident that you will be alongside us in all we undertake. Amen

For some churches this year may be one in which difficult decisions will need to be made about their future. Pray for all those involved in such processes as they discern how best to fulfil God's mission in a peaceful and amicable way.

Help us, Lord, in this time of uncertainty, to place our utter trust in you, that through us and our works your love may be expressed. Through Christ your Son. Amen

Learning - *We will help people become, learn and grow into confident disciples of Jesus*