

1-Oct	Pause ... for a moment now, simply pause and be aware of your own life, your breathing in and out, all that today holds which is easy or challenging. Pause ... be aware that Christ is with you. Give thanks as you enter the remainder of your day.	8-Oct	Remember ... today those who have helped you grow in your faith. Give thanks for them and the influence they have had. Now think of those who might look to you to help grow their faith. How might you encourage them this week?	15-Oct	Today we ask God's blessing on the Circuit Leadership Team as they meet this evening and as they prayerfully discern and help bring to fruition God's vision for our Leeds S&W Circuit and Churches.
2-Oct	We give thanks for the wisdom and support of the Circuit Covid Task Group as we've reopened buildings. Lord, may their eyes not go skew-wiffy as they digest changing guidance and help us stay safe!	9-Oct	Holy God, you risked your life to save us. We pray today for asylum seekers and refugees who risk their lives to seek their own safety and that of their families. We pray compassion and wisdom on agencies who seek to heal such broken lives.	16-Oct	Pray for those who serve us on our doorsteps – postal workers, online deliverers, milk deliverers, newspaper deliverers. Why not tell them you've prayed for them today?
3-Oct	We remember those who work in care homes as they continue to manage the Covid-19 crisis. We pray for those for whom it is their home, that they may experience the gift of love and care.	10-Oct	We give thanks for all who prepare the circuit weekly worship resources. Today we pray for those who are learning more about creating podcasts ... Lord, please inspire them that we might be inspired!	17-Oct	As the impact of Covid-19 continues, we pray for those who feel particularly alone and isolated. Ask God to 'nudge' you if there is someone you could contact to help them know they are cared for.
4-Oct	<u>Matthew 21:33-46</u> Jesus' stark warning was to the Pharisees, whose teaching was such that it harmed rather than helped people's relationship with God. How do you pray for your minister? Pray that the fruit of their ministry may be true to God's Good News for all people.	11-Oct	<u>Matthew 22:1-14</u> A challenging reading! Those expected at the banquet refuse the invitation while those least expected are gathered! As we continue to reopen local church buildings, pray to accept God's invitation on God's terms as we dare to be God's church to 'serve the present age.'	18-Oct	<u>Matthew 22:15-22</u> This reading reminds us to give to God what is God's ... on what are you still keeping a grip in your own life, that Christ is asking you to entrust to him ... Time? Relationships? Money? Pray that you will sit lightly with this, trusting it and yourself to Jesus.
5-Oct	As Churches continue opening their doors we pray for our ecumenical friends and those in our local Churches Together networks. We pray for 'unity in diversity' and 'diversity in unity.'	12-Oct	Give thanks today for the commitment of your local church's leadership stewards, finance and property teams and all who help to maintain the management of the church. How might you express thanks?	19-Oct	Pray today for your local politicians, for the Government and for the key leaders of the UK nations. May they hold office with honesty and integrity, allowing them to serve all people fairly.
6-Oct	In this Methodist Year of Prayer, we pray for those who hold connexional posts, especially Trey Hall and the Evangelism and Growth Team. Why not join them and others across the connexion for Tuesday prayer at 12.45pm? (see after Oct 31st)	13-Oct	Lockdown has given many a fresh chance to get to know neighbours. Let's pray for our neighbours – is there an act of kindness you can do for them today?	20-Oct	We pray God's wisdom for those who take responsibility for safeguarding across our churches. We remember those who are vulnerable, especially due to Covid-19.
7-Oct	Lord, we pray for all who work in the emergency services, especially when their lives are at risk. Protect them, we pray.	14-Oct	We pray for Funeral Directors as they offer a vital ministry at a difficult time. We remember those who are grieving - if this is you, please know you are held in prayer.	21-Oct	We give thanks that throughout the time of closed buildings we've been 'watched over in love,' not least by our pastoral visitors. Might God be calling you to offer this care and gentle 'keeping in touch'? Why not pray and talk to your minister!

22-
Oct We remember Rev Kerry Tankard, our Chair, Wendy and Melanie in the office, and all who hold office in the Yorkshire West District. May they know wisdom in their decisions and find joy in their work.

23-
Oct As the furlough scheme draws to an end, we remember those who have lost their jobs, businesses and livelihoods. We have no easy answers, Lord, but where we can, help us to be generous and charitable.

24-
Oct The 'Rule of 6' continues to impact lives. Pray today for your family and friends who will miss your company as you will miss their's. Why not get in touch and tell them how much they mean to you!

25-
Oct Matthew 22:34-46 How do you respond to the question 'What do you think of the Messiah?' (v42, NRSV) How we respond will impact our understanding of Jesus' answer in vs 37-39. Find some time to sit prayerfully with God today. Imagine having a conversation (through prayer, journalling, on a walk ...) as Jesus asks you what you think of Him.

Lord of time and Lord of history, giving, when the world despairs, faith to wrestle with the mystery of a God who loves and cares, make us humble in believing, and, believing, bold to pray :
'Lord, by grace beyond conceiving, come and reign in us today !'

Singing the Faith 318 v2 (CCLI 622200)

26-
Oct As many schools begin their half term break, let us give thanks for all who teach in our schools, colleges and universities, especially remembering Rev Melvyn Kelly, one of the Leeds University chaplains.

27-
Oct Today we ask God's blessing on our circuit lay staff – Cathy & Erica in the office, Sharon our children and families worker and Chris our lay pastor.

28-
Oct Holy God, we give grateful thanks to all who work in the NHS, seen and unseen. Strengthen them today in their work, especially when their own lives are at risk. Give them stamina, wisdom and patience especially when the work is challenging.

29-
Oct Today we ask God's blessing on Revd Jo, our Superintendent, for her work, her rest and her play ... and a good balance!

30-
Oct As half term draws to a close, we pray again for the young people of this nation as they return to school. Lord, we ask that you might help keep them safe and give them a love of learning that will help shape a better world for all people.

31-
Oct Pray today for your minister, asking that they may recognise God's Kingdom work as together we continue to discern God's 'new normal'. How can you work with your minister and church community to continue to bring God's vision to life?

The Tuesday lunchtime Zoom prayer initiative can be found by typing <http://bit.ly/TuesdayMethodistPrayer> into an internet search. It can also be found on the Methodist Church website and Facebook pages.



Prayer Diary

Oct 2020

Praying for the Methodist Churches and communities of Leeds South & West Circuit

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