

The Leeds District Day 1

Therefore, my beloved, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is working in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure. Philippians 2: 12-13

We pray for the members of the District Leadership Team and District Policy Committee, fulfilling individual roles and shared responsibilities.

Liz Smith, Julian Pursehouse,
Christine Gillespie, Patricia Davies,
Anthony Hyett, Richard Lowe,
Caroline Mason, David Quick,
Michael Noble, Bev Hollings,
Sarah Cave, John Goacher,
George Bailey, Viv Morrissey

We give thanks for

- the inauguration of new circuits;
- opportunities for working in partnership with others;
- energy released and visions shared;
- those people, lay and ordained, who give of their time and skills so freely in encouraging others to discern a way forward in reshaping for mission.

We pray for

- all those who offer leadership in circuits continuing to explore how best to reconfigure for mission in their context;
- all of us as we strive to deploy resources of people, finance and property with courage and care;
- wisdom, as members of the District Policy Committee grapple with significant challenges on behalf of the whole District, especially the urgent challenges of sustaining an effective presence in Leeds city centre and in the economically deprived but culturally and spiritually rich neighbourhoods of the district.

Copies of this Prayer Diary cost £1.50 (inc p&p)

and may be obtained from:

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*Now give us courage, loving God
To choose again the pilgrim way
And help us to accept with joy
The challenge of tomorrow's day.*

H&P 619

Therefore let us also, seeing we are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,
(Hebrews 12:1)

The Leeds Mission Circuit has the city centre of Leeds as its focus of ministry.

The circuit engages in chaplaincy to the Universities, the courts, and the city in its widest expression.

The children's centre serves the needs of those using the courts and the Person-to-person listening service responds, with care, to people in crisis.

The circuit is grappling with immense challenges at the moment as the financial crisis of wider society impacts upon the work of mission and ministry in the city.

The circuit is exercised by exciting opportunities, but frustrated by external issues which seem to pull it away from the work of mission.

Living God,

We pray for your work in the city,
and especially the city of Leeds and Leeds (mission) Circuit.

Give the people vision and
in giving the vision, give them energy and determination
to bring that vision to life.

We pray for new developments,
for good response to challenges,
for continued faith and faithfulness,
for your blessings to flow.

Amen

*I offer you my hands, O Lord, to do your work; my lips to sing
your praise; my life to proclaim your glory and my heart to
serve you in my neighbour; for Jesu's sake.*

Amen

(Hildegard of Bingen 1098-1179)

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Genesis 1: 1-4 (NRSV)

In the beginning was the one who is called the Word.
The Word was with God and was truly God.
From the very beginning the Word was with God.
And with this Word, God created all things.
Nothing was made without the Word.
Everything that was created received its life from him,
and his life gave light to everyone.
The light keeps shining in the dark,
and darkness has never put it out.

John 1: 1-5 (CEV)

I am coming soon! And when I come, I will reward everyone for what they have done. I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.

I am Jesus! And I am the one who sent my angel to tell all of you these things for the churches. I am David's Great Descendant, and I am also the bright morning star.

Revelation 22: 12-13, 16 (CEV)

*Holy. Holy, Holy is the Lord;
Holy is the Lord God Almighty!
Who was, and is, and is to come!
Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord!*

Mission Praise Combined, 241

Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, 'Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, "To an unknown god." What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you.

Acts 17: 22-23

Local Preachers and Worship Leaders are lay people. Their call to ministry is tested by the church during their training, and their commitment is to lifelong service freely given.

Most are friends or supporters of LWPT, the Leaders of Worship and Preachers' Trust, which provides resources and help in time of need.

Give thanks for

- those who lead worship and preach, for their commitment and dedication, and for their contribution to the worshipping life and mission of the churches they serve.
- those who train and support new preachers and worship leaders.
- the growth in ecumenical working, training and development.

Please pray for

- those seeking to test their calling to lead worship and preach, and for all those who lead worship week by week in our churches.
- the work of LWPT, both at district and national level, as it provides support and resources for preachers and worship leaders, and for the work of LWPHomes.

*Lord our God,
as we rejoice in the ministry of preaching,
let the Gospel of your Son come to us,
not in words alone, but in power and love;
that through our life and witness
the world may believe;
through Christ our Lord. **Amen.***

MWB p331

*God of the poor, friend of the weak
Give us compassion we pray.
Melt our cold hearts let tears fall like rain.
Come, change our love from a spark to a flame*

Graham Kendrick

We pray for the work of the Church within the community in which we live and work.

We pray and give thanks for our work with the young, vulnerable and disadvantaged, and for the agencies, groups and counsellors who work alongside them.

We pray and give thanks for the work with people of all faiths and ethnic backgrounds, that we may show love and understanding to each other and seek justice in all that we do.

We pray and give thanks for the chaplains who reach out to people in their daily lives. Be with them in their work giving help, comfort and support.

We pray that we may accept and adapt to change in order to develop our responsibility to others, that we may fulfil our mission to do Christ's will amongst those who need our help in the community.

Grant to us, Lord, we pray, the spirit to think and do always those things that are right; that we, who can do no good thing without you, may by you be enabled to live according to your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

The Book of Common Prayer (1662)

"I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing."
John 15 v.5

The nine churches of the circuit are centred on the spa town of Harrogate and the neighbouring villages.

The town receives a large number of visitors every year and is a major venue for conferences hosted at the International Conference Centre and the Yorkshire Showground.

The Methodist Homes of Berwick Grange and Martin Grange and the Methodist school Ashville College are all located in the circuit.

We give thanks for:

- The completion of the refurbishment of Trinity and the new activities and groups that are being established there
- The work of our childrens and families worker, Matthew Lunn, including the establishment of Messy Church and the Holiday Club at Bilton
- The development of the Parade services at Starbeck and the increasing attendance there

We pray for the new developments in the circuit:

- The appointment of Gail Jackson as the One Programme Participant based at Starbeck
- The completion of the new Methodist Home at Martin Grange and the development of a good community spirit there
- The new circuit that is being established with our friends in the present Knaresborough circuit
- The new opportunities at Wesley with the relocation of the Hyper Youth Centre to the church

*Jesus, confirm my heart's desire
To work, and speak, and think for thee;
Still let me guard the holy fire,
And still stir up thy gift in me*

H&P 745

Share with God's people who are in need. Practise hospitality.
Romans 12:13 (NIV)

More Than Gold, an ecumenical organisation, is helping UK churches engage with their communities through the 2012 Games, using programmes of hospitality, outreach and service.

Give thanks for:

- The work of More and Gold; Christians in Sport; and Higher Sports
- Christian families near Olympic venues offering hospitality to competitor's families who would not otherwise be able to come to the Games

Pray for:

- Churches to take up the opportunity of the Games for mission and service – hosting Big Screen events, themed holiday club, sports and other events.
- Street Pastors and others training to be Games Pastors at the Torch Relay, live and big screen events and around sports venues.
- Competitors and their families, coaches and international media from the 205 competing nations, and those disappointed not to make the teams
- Security at borders, airports, transport hubs and for police, armed forces and security teams
- Justice issues - human trafficking, prostitution; homelessness; fair trade and the environment; and legacy issues beyond the Games.

*Run the straight race through God's good grace,
Lift up thine eyes, and seek his face;
Life with its way before thee lies;
Christ is the path, and Christ the prize.*

H&P 710

“We are convicted that we are, at a deep level, a Church of lay and ordained Christians, encouraging and enabling each other to whole-life discipleship, and that our structures and fellowship must be increasingly reshaped to facilitate such discipleship.”

Martyn Atkins in ‘Discipleship’

The new Wharfedale and Aireborough Circuit lies North West of the city of Leeds and serves several commuter / small towns from Ilkley to Bramhope and Yeadon and smaller rural villages. The circuit has seven churches of 100+ members, seven smaller churches, one of which is also a retreat and conference centre, and includes two LEPs. It also supports the Beamsley Project, the airport chaplaincy and two homes for older people.

The staff team comprises of seven presbyters, ably assisted by the ministry of several supernumeraries.

We are continuing the task of establishing the new circuit, and theological reflection on its mission and direction in the future.

Please pray for the circuit leadership team during this careful work of regrouping and resourcing.

Pray too for the opportunity for joint working with MHA in their new development in Ilkley.

We give thanks for the leadership of our superintendent, Julian Pursehouse, and for the ministry of Arnold Clay, who will retire in 2012.

Please pray for the staff team in a time of discernment about whether individuals continue with us or move on.

Pray too for the work of the Circuit Invitations Committee.

We give thanks for the ministry of our Supernumeraries and for developments in new patterns of worship in our churches.

Please pray for rural ministry, often with ecumenical partners.

*Lord of all, of Church and Kingdom,
In an age of change and doubt
Keep us faithful to the gospel,
Help us work our purpose out.*

Julian of Norwich was a mediaeval mystic who, during a life threatening illness, received ‘shewings’ - visions of God and of Jesus, and spent the rest of her life pondering their meaning. She writes:

“After this, our Lord taught me about prayer.

In this Showing there are two parts of our Lord’s teaching: one is rightful prayer, and the other is trust.

Yet often we do not trust him completely, for we are not sure that God hears us, because we are unworthy - it seems to us - and because we feel absolutely nothing.

For often we are as dry and barren after our prayers as we were before. And feeling like this, in our folly, is the cause of our weakness - for I have felt like this myself.

And our Lord brought all this suddenly into my mind and spoke these words and said: ‘I am the ground of your praying. First, it is my will that you should have this. Then I make it your will, too. Then I make you ask for it, and you ask. How then should you not have what you pray for?’

...

Prayer is the new, gracious, lasting will of the soul, joined and fastened into the will of our Lord, through the deep inward working of the Holy Spirit.

...

Our prayer makes God glad and happy. He wants it and waits for it so that, by his grace, he can make us as like him in condition as we are by creation. This is his blessed will.

...

So he says this ‘Pray inwardly, even though you find no joy in it. For it does good, even though you feel nothing, see nothing - yes, even though you think you cannot pray. When you are dry and empty, sick and weak, your prayers please me - though there be little enough to please you. All believing prayer is precious to me.’ “

Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.
Revelation 4:11

The nine churches on the west and north-western fringes of Leeds vary greatly in size, age-profile and social setting; but are united in their desire to 'offer Christ' to the communities they serve.

The Circuit faces significant changes, and endeavours to meet these as fresh opportunities. In 2012 we reduce to three full-time presbyters, and are looking to make a half-time appointment developing alternative styles of worship and witness.

Give thanks for:

- The ministry of the late Rev Frank Pagden, within the Circuit and District, and through his work in local radio;
- Six new Worship Leaders;
- Refurbished premises at Farsley;
- The initiatives already begun, and those planned, for new styles of worship and outreach;
- Effective visitation on the Swinnow estate at St Mark's

Please pray for:

- Revs George Bailey and Debora Marschner as they complete their ministries in the circuit, and as they seek fresh appointments;
- A replacement presbyter, and a half-time worker;
- Circuit churches preparing for change;
- The vision to create and implement new types of worship and ministry;
- Explorations with Headingley & West Circuit about co-operation and sharing resources

*To God the only Wise,
Our Saviour and our King,
Let all the saints below the skies
Their humble praises bring.*

*He will present our souls,
Unblemished and complete,
Before the glory of His face,
With joys divinely great.*

Isaac Watts MHB 638

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.

Philippians 2: 1-4

Today we pray for our home church.

Please pause at each line and draw to mind those people known to you, naming them before God.

For the minister and church council.

For the children.

For the retired people.

For those in between.

For those too frail to come to church any more.

For those too busy to come to church very often.

For those who do the many small jobs
which help our church to run smoothly.

For any preachers and worship leaders, musicians and readers.

For the various groups and clubs which use the premises.

For those who have helped you on your journey of faith, and for those whom you have helped.

For those who sometimes 'rub you up the wrong way'.

*He bids us build each other up;
And, gathered into one,
To our high calling's glorious hope
We hand in hand go on.*

H&P 753

From the early centuries of the Church

One day I saw three monks insulted and humiliated
in the same way at the same moment.
The first felt he had been cruelly hurt;
he was distressed but managed not to say anything.
The second was happy for himself
but grieved for the one who had insulted him.
The third thought only of the harm suffered
by his neighbour,
and wept with the most ardent compassion.
The first was prompted by fear;
the second was urged on by the hope of reward;
the third was moved by love.

John Climacus: (C7) The Ladder of Divine Perfection, 8th step.

A brother had as his only possession a book of the
Gospels. He sold it and spent the proceeds on food
for the starving. And he added these memorable
words: 'What I sold was the very book that tells me:
"Sell what you have and give to the poor" '.

Evagrius of Pontus: (C4) Practicus, 97

*Quotations taken from The Roots of Christian Mysticism
(Olivier Clément, 1993)*

*The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes
me lie down in green pastures; he leads me besides
still waters; he restores my soul. Psalm 23*

Country living may suggest peace and quiet, beautiful scenery, a healthy and relaxed lifestyle: in short, a stress free life. However, as many will be aware, this idealistic country life is often a myth. The natural beauty often attracts people with good incomes to invest in homes in the countryside. This puts pressure on local people, who find house prices beyond their reach. Older people and young mums, who rely on cars for their independence, can find themselves isolated in their own homes because there is no other transport available.

For many farming is more than just a job. It is also a lifestyle; the farm is their home, their work and often their identity too. Many farming families have built their farm over generations, with expectations for future generations. This can be positive, but in difficult times it can cause additional pressures. But in recent years the pressures have snowballed. Financial pressure leading to overwork and strained family relationships and increased 'red tape' are two of the biggest issues. In addition, farming is an increasingly solitary occupation with less social interaction and sense of community than ever before.

Give thanks for:

The beauty and bounty of the countryside, and those who tend it.
The sense of community and neighbourliness.
Small churches providing a focal point and witness.

Pray for:

Support groups such as Farm Crisis Network, the Rural Stress Helpline and Young Farmers.
Fair Trade, both at home and abroad.

*For the beauty of each hour, of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower,
sun and moon and stars of light.*

Gracious God, to thee we raise this our sacrifice of praise.

Christ's message in all its richness must live in your hearts. Teach and instruct each other with all wisdom. Sing psalms, hymns, and sacred songs; sing to God with thanksgiving in your hearts. Everything you do or say, should be done in the name of the Lord Jesus, as you give thanks through him to God the Father"

Colossians 3, 16-17

Give thanks for:

- Christ's message in all its richness.
- signs of renewal in churches and Circuits as they deepen discipleship and offer Christ.
- the opportunities of new beginnings through creating and developing new Circuits.

Please pray for:

- the wisdom of God as we share in the journey of discipleship and of creating new Circuits.
- the new Circuits in the District as they develop their life and mission in the name of Jesus.
- the work to create other Circuits, led by God's mission and empowered by the Holy Spirit.
- the work of the District Development Enabler, Michael Noble.

Gracious God, help us to hear your call to be faithful disciples of Jesus, and to be your servants in your church and your world. Amen

When Elijah heard it [the whisper], he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave. Then a voice said to him, 'What are you doing here, Elijah?'

1 Kings 19: 12 – 13

In Leeds South we are considering this question in depth and trying to respond in faith, through prayer.

- We give thanks for all the ongoing work with the elderly through the Live at Home Scheme and with the children through Kids Club and Space.
- We embrace our communities with prayer as we walk the Circuit in one hour sections each week for the next 37 weeks
- We look to God in trust as we meet to share in Prayer and Communion as a Circuit each month, praying for each church within the Circuit and for all the work that is both ongoing and developing.
- We share in hope with both our ecumenical friends and with the peoples of other faiths amongst whom we live and work.
- We are ready to step out onto the mountain side to face the wind, earthquake and fire and to listen for the whisper of God in our midst that we may answer his question.

Lord God, you call us to be your people in this place, heralds of your Gospel, practitioners of your grace.

As we look to this coming year help us to respond to your call, trusting in you alone. We pray across this Circuit, a common prayer each week, as shared by the people of Cuba: 'Prepare us for death or renew us Lord'.

We are here Lord, ready to participate in your Mission. Send us now in the name of Christ.

Amen.

Day 24 World Church & Other Relationships

Thu-ma mi-na, Thu-ma mi-na, So-man-dla.

(Send me Lord, Send me Jesus) South African song

The World Church and Other Relationships Forum seeks to help the District in its involvement with:

- The Church throughout the world
- Christians of other denominations
- The work of Network
- The Anglican- Methodist Interfaith group

Please remember in your prayers:

- Mission Partners: Drs Graham and Jenny Longbottom, Solomon Islands;
- Maggie Patchett, Belize; Paul and Sarah Wright, Jack and Asha, Nepal.
- Concord, Yorkshire, the work of the Yorkshire and Humber Faith Forum and all those involved in deepening understanding between different faith communities.
- The Interfaith group as they hold meetings around the diocese and district.
- The World Methodist Council new officers as they begin the quinquennium; the WMC General Secretary Rev George Freeman as he retires and Bishop Ivan Abrahams as he prepares to take over the post.

*Come, to be our hope, O Jesus, come to set your people free
From oppression come release us, grant us your true liberty.
Come release from every prison those who suffer in our land.
In your love we find the reason still to live and understand*

*Come to build your new creation through the road of servanthood;
Give new life to every nation, changing evil into good.
Come and open out tomorrow for your joyful reign so near.
Take away all human sorrow, give us hope against our fear.*

*Text and Music © 1989, Jaci Maraschin & Marcilio de Oliveiura Filho, Brazil.
Administered by WCC. As used in WMC 2011 Programme Book.*

West Yorkshire Ecumenical Council - WYEC Day 9

All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one as we are one.

John 17: 10-11

We give thanks for

- the covenant signed by church leaders in West Yorkshire;
- all the ways in which we are enriched by relationships across different Christian traditions;
- the variety of expressions of Church, mirroring for us something of God's relational complexity and human diversity;
- opportunities to offer and to receive ecumenical hospitality.

We pray for

- Church leaders of every tradition
- Revd Dr Liz Smith, current Chair of WYEC
- Revd Dr Clive Barrett, our County Ecumenical Officer
- Revd Dr George Bailey, our District Ecumenical Officer
- Churches Together groups
- Leeds Churches Together in Mission (LICTIM)
- Local Ecumenical Partnerships

Pioneering ecumenical initiatives:

- Three Pioneer Ministers in Leeds city centre: James Barnett, Beth Tash and Rob Hinton;
- The Church in the Dale (Covenant of all churches in Nidderdale)
- The Oastler Centre (Faith in Economic Life)

Opportunities to work with partner churches in areas of Interfaith, Racial Justice, and Chaplaincies in Higher and Further Education, Hospitals and Prisons, and Leeds Bradford Airport

In all of the above we pray for a willingness to work more closely, to share resources, and where possible to speak with a common voice.

*Come all who look to Christ today
Stretch out your hands, enlarge your mind
Together share his living way
Where all who humbly seek will find*

If anything is excellent or praiseworthy - think about such things.
Philippians 4v8

900 members in 9 churches serve across an area from the inner city through council estates and suburban areas to outlying villages.

We give thanks for those who willingly share their gifts in various contexts:

- in the ecumenical youth project in Chapel Allerton
- in the Kidzklub and Rock Solid groups and the holiday club at Roundhay
- in lunch clubs and in community groups such as Northcall, Maecare, Mena, Chapel Allerton Good Neighbours
- in the social networking project, working through the Saint Arnolds virtual community and a local pub
- in exploring different styles of worship both locally and in the monthly Circuit service
- in charity work, including particular involvement in local MHA schemes and the Nigeria Health Care Project

We pray for

- those who benefit from the projects listed here
- Anne Jeffrey and Vicky Atkins, former members of this circuit, ordained this year
- the members of Woodhouse Methodist Church which recently closed after more than 250 years of worship and service
- those preparing creatively for changes to come in ministry and mission
- wisdom as we seek greater depth and confidence in discipleship

*We of this generation on whom God's hand is laid,
can journey to the future, secure and unafraid,
rejoicing in God's goodness and trusting in his word
that 'You shall be my people and I shall be your God'.*

Judith Fetter

*Of holiness the Spirit shower,
Of wise discernment, humble love,
And zeal, and unity, and power.* John Wesley

This is a new circuit inaugurated in September 2011, and created from the circuits of Castleford, Ossett and Horbury, Pontefract and Normanton, and Wakefield.

The circuit has over 1700 members in 33 churches.

We give thanks for

- the commitment, enthusiasm and skills of those who have worked hard over the last 2 years to bring us to the stage where we anticipate a smooth transition into the new circuit.
- those who hold office in our circuit and churches.
- the quiet and faithful witness of so many people.

We pray for

- the new circuit that we may grow in friendship and grace as we worship and work together in mission.
- The work of the Circuit Executive as it formulates strategies for mission.
- Revd Mike Jones and Revd Jacquie Evans, in their new surroundings, and as they begin their ministries in the circuit, and those close to them.
- Revd Wayne Grewcock commencing work as Chaplain to the Wakefield Methodist J & I School and working to develop and train a team to lead collective worship in schools.
- Revd Jonathan Sharp and his colleagues in the chaplaincy team of the Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust.

*When we set up camp and settle
To avoid love's risk and pain,
You disturb complacent comfort,
Pulls the tent-pegs up again;
Keep us travelling in the knowledge
You are always at our side,
Give us courage for the journey,
Christ our goal and Christ our guide.*

Joy Dine

Day 22 Methodist Women in Britain

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine according to his power that is at work within us, to him be Glory.
(Ephesians 3.20)

Methodist Women in Britain – MWiB (formerly Women's Network and the British Unit of the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women), was fully launched at the Methodist Conference in Southport on July 1st 2011. This collaboration will, we trust, combine all that has been good about both movements and also go beyond the reach of either in attracting, inspiring and serving a wider spectrum of Methodist women.

We give thanks for:

- all the work done by the MWiB Executive and Forum in preparing the constitution and planning the financial viability of this new organisation.
- The MWiB launch event road shows around the country;
- The continuing financial and volunteer support for the Oxford Place Children's Centre, which is our District Project.

We pray for:

- All Methodist women in our local churches, circuits and in the Leeds District
- The first MWiB District President, Mrs Christine Baker and the Vice-President, Mrs Mollie Jefferson
- Mrs Jill Baker, the first MWiB Connexional President – combined with the role of British Unit President
- Mrs Josie Burdon, the Leeds District representative on the MWiB Forum
- Mrs Margaret Williams, the part-time home-based Connexional MWiB Administrator.

*O breath of love, come, breathe within us,
Renewing thought and will and heart;
Come, love of Christ, afresh to win us,
Revive your church in every part.*

Hymns and Psalms 777 v.3

Learning and Development Day 11

Open our hearts, O God, to hear the words which speak of wisdom. Grant to us the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and strength, the Spirit of knowledge and holiness and fill us with the Spirit of reverence for you, who formed us from earth's clay and redeemed us for yourself.

(Adapted from an eleventh-century Winchester nun's notebook in 'A Garland of Faith' by John Blakesley)

This is a Forum for those seeking to promote growth and development within and among all our people.

Please pray:

- for those engaged in discerning God's call upon our personal and corporate life and whose influence we seek;
- for all who are continually extending their discipleship and exploring their vocation, especially those considering candidating for presbyteral and diaconal ministry;
- for ordained and lay embarking upon the Ministerial Development Review;
- for all those involved in Christians Learning Across Yorkshire (CLAY) who give of their time and themselves in leading and taking part in the opportunities provided;
- for those involved in Creating Safer Space in our churches

*God of love, your pilgrim people
speak your word in every age.
Now in church and home and chapel
help us build a heritage,
so the heirs of our tradition
have their own means to uphold
witness to the living vision
in another future world.*

Janet Wootton (Eagles' Wings p82)

Day 12 Pause for thought: Mercy

If you were to lose mercy, the heart's compassion, you would have lost everything.

Will you let yourself be challenged by that absolute of love, the call to forgive even seventy times seven, in other words always?

With lightened step, you will go forward from one discovery to another.

For those who love, and forget themselves, life is filled with serene beauty. All friendship involves an inner struggle. And sometimes the cross comes to illuminate the unfathomable depth of loving.

Rather than trying to impose yourself by creating a bad conscience around you, or slipping into an ironic tone, will you let yourself overflow with kindness?

In the transparency of this loving, admit your mistakes simply and do not waste time looking at the speck in your brother's eye.

Happy the community which becomes an abyss of kindness: it lets Christ shine through, incomparably.

The 'Little Source' of Taizé

For the Taizé Community, the 'Little Source' expresses the essentials which make a common life possible. It was developed during the formation of the community by its founder, Br. Roger.

Mission & Evangelism Day 21

God is not a secret to be kept.

Matt. 5:14 (The Message)

*Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.
And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message,
so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ,
for which I am in chains.*

Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should.

Col. 4:2-4 (TNIV)

Give thanks for:

- New opportunities for mission being grasped as new circuits are formed
- Many examples of Messy Church taking place across the District
- New prayer initiatives praying for a street each week in Stanley and Pontefract, and similar initiatives ongoing elsewhere in the District.

Pray for:

- Those completing the *mission shaped ministry* course that they will be able to apply the teaching in their local church and for those starting the new course in January
- Churches to make the most of all the opportunities the Olympics bring for community engagement and mission
- The District Evangelism Enabler, Revd. Bev Hollings

*Lord, for our world; when we disown and doubt him,
Loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain,
Hungry and helpless, lost indeed without him;
Lord of the world, we pray that Christ may reign.*

Timothy Dudley-Smith, Common Ground 74

I am the Vine, you are the branches

(John 15.5)

We are a group of Churches and community projects working together and ecumenically in East Leeds.

Our purpose is to work for God's kingdom... supporting and overseeing the Churches in celebrating God's love for the world.

Empowered by God's Holy Spirit we affirm the gospel message of reconciliation and forgiveness. We share gifts and resources as we work for God's justice, peace and equality for all people through outreach and mission. *(Circuit Mission Statement)*

Prayers of Thanksgiving:

- For the ordination of Deacon Vicky Atkins at the Methodist Conference after the successful completion of her probation.
- For the development of new, creative and fun ways of working with families and children at Cross Gates and Christ Church.
- For Seacroft's partnership with East Leeds FM radio, bringing the Good News into the digital age.
- For the completion of building repair work at Scholes.

Prayers for that which is new:

- For continuing talks with a neighbouring Circuit about ways forward in mission
- For bridge-building work with the Ghanaian fellowship worshipping at Newbourne.
- For Rev. John Mason who takes his first Sabbatical this connexional year.

*Jesus had all kinds of friends,
So the gospel stories say,
Jesus had all kinds of friends,
And there's room for us today.
Some were happy, some were sad,
some were good and some were bad,
Some were short and some were tall,
Jesus said he loved them all.*

Michael Forster (b 1946) MHON 863

Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.
1 Peter 3:15

There are 5 churches and 2 chaplaincies in the current Knareborough circuit and each values its own special identity. We are moving quickly over the next year along with Harrogate to form the new Nidd Valley Circuit making a total of 14 churches.

We give thanks for the continuing work at Gracious Street as we seek to be Christ's witness through word and deed in the community of Knareborough. We pray especially for the developing work of The Bridge coffee bar, for new ventures with families, for deepening expressions of worship and for the ongoing development of the building.

We pray for guidance in the village of Kirk Hammerton as ecumenical relationships develop and fresh expressions of worship are explored.

Park Grove is beginning a new project with 'Messy Church' beginning in October 2011 and asks for prayers for the team leaders and that many neighbouring families will be drawn to this venture and find a welcome and the love of Jesus.

Scotton continues to share its worship regularly with its Anglican neighbours and welcomes the local Primary school on special occasions. It is a lively part of the village.

Kearby has recently redecorated inside and restored a freshness to the beauty and peace that greets all those who find their way to this remote but faithful little worshipping community.

Pray for a loving and Christ-like transition for our new circuit.

*Consuming fire, fan into flame
a passion for Your name.
Spirit of God, fall in this place.
Lord, have Your way,
Lord, have Your way with us.*

(Tim Hughes Copyright © 2002 Thankyou Music)

Day 14 Children & Young People

*O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!
You have set your glory above the heavens. From the lips of
children and infants you have ordained praise. Psalm 8:1-2*

Today we remember and pray for the children and young people in our District and remember that God has ordained praise from their lips. Let us give thanks that God speaks to our children and young people.....

The prayer of a young person:

Oh God....I know is that you love me and look after me, I know that I can come and speak with you whenever I want and you will always listen.

I know that I can shout for you just like I shout at a football match, because you are so great and just perfect in every way.

I thank you that you sent your son Jesus and that I can knock on his door and he will come out to play... he's brilliant because he seems to know just how to have the most fun without getting into any trouble.

God.. ..help me to know a bit more about you this today.... oh and will you come out to play! Thanks God.. I knew you would!!!

Please pray for:

- Our children and young people in the District that they may experience God in real ways
- All those who work with our children and young people -give them wisdom and guidance
- Those representing the District at National Youth Assembly
- Our One Programme Participant Gail Jackson

In the words of an 8 year old child who wrote a prayer for church which finished

"Long live God forever AMEN!!!"

Pause for thought: Hospitality Day 19

FBIſce

I SAW A STRANGER TODAY
I PUT FOOD FOR HIM IN THE EATING-PLACE
AND DRINK IN THE DRINKING-PLACE
AND MUSIC IN THE LISTENING-PLACE
IN THE HOLY NAME OF THE TRINITY
HE BLESSED MYSELF AND MY HOUSE
MY GOODS AND MY FAMILY
AND THE LARK SAID IN HER WARBLE
OFTEN, OFTEN, OFTEN
GOES CHRIST IN THE STRANGER'S GUISE
OH, OFT AND OFT AND OFT
GOES CHRIST IN THE STRANGER'S GUISE

FBIſce is Celtic for welcome

Day 18 Pateley Bridge

Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion.

Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.

Ephesians 6:18 NLT

Give thanks for

- growth of the Messy Church at Pateley Bridge.
- over 100 people using daily Bible readings
- for preachers using on the Weekly Bible reading theme

Pray that

- the Circuit Review of resources and mission will open up a new period of growth and faithfulness.
- the ecumenical Church in the Dale will grow stronger and help Christians in the Dale to do together what does not need to be done separately.

Pray for new initiatives in 2011-12

Summerbridge

- a new mid-week group for Primary age children

Pateley Bridge

- for a programme of Christian film evenings
- for an evangelism initiative at a local fish and chip shop

Church in the Dale

- a 'Prayer for the World' initiative including a Day of Prayer on 21 July 2012 just before the Olympic Games.
- an Easter Trail for Primary School children.

*So remember this and keep it firmly in mind.
The Lord is God both in heaven and on earth
and there is no other.*

Deuteronomy 4:39

Pause for thought: Faith Day 15

Give me the faith which can remove
And sink the mountain to a plain;
Give me the childlike praying love,
Which longs to build thy house again;
Thy love, let it my heart o'erpower,
And all my simple soul devour.

I would the precious time redeem,
And longer live for this alone:
To spend, and to be spent, for them
Who have not yet my Saviour known;
Fully on thee my mission prove,
And only breathe, to breathe thy love.

My talents, gifts and graces, Lord,
Into thy blessed hands receive;
And let me live to preach thy word,
And let me to thy glory live;
My every sacred moment spend
In publishing the sinners' friend.

Enlarge, inflame, and fill my heart
With boundless charity divine:
So shall I all my strength exert,
And love them with a zeal like thine;
And lead them to thy open side,
The sheep for whom their Shepherd died.

Charles Wesley: H&P 767

*For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord.
"They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give
you a future and a hope.*

Jeremiah 29:11 (New Living Translation)

The Headingley and West Circuit is a group of ten churches formed last year from the Headingley Circuit and the Leeds West Circuit. This Circuit is looking forward to the future with hope and a willingness to move closer together. We recognise the challenges and opportunities of today but are committed to moving forward in mission and service. We are engaged in discussions with Leeds Wesley circuit about sharing resources.

Give thanks for:

- The new Circuit with all the opportunities for worship, mission, service and pastoral care.
- The quiet faithfulness of many, ensuring the ongoing work and witness of the churches.
- Those who are making initial steps of faith and those who have recently renewed their faith.

Pray for:

- The new Circuit leadership team, staff and stewards, as it continues to seek guidance and direction for the future.
- Our congregations, as they continue to adjust to new dimensions of ministry.

*Loving and faithful God,
help us to offer Christ,
through our listening and our speaking,
through our gentleness and our challenge,
through our lives and our prayers.
and in all we do and say and think,
may your grace prevail.*

*Come, now is the time to worship.
Come, now is the time to give your heart.
Come, just as you are to worship.
Come, just as you are before your God,
Come.*

Church Hymnary 4 196

This forum draws from a broad spectrum of church life: music and creative arts, prayer and retreats, preaching, healing and wholeness.

We give thanks for:

- Those who lead retreats and produce devotional materials.
- Creative artists and musicians who enhance our worship.
- Those through whom we bring our need for wholeness.
- Those who challenge our thinking through the spoken word.
- Prayer groups, prayer chains and prayer partners throughout the District.

We pray for:

- A deepening of faith, both for ourselves and our churches.
- Worship that is uplifting, challenging and enabling.
- Those who accompany us on our spiritual journeys, gently chide us, widen our vision and nudge us onwards.
- Prayer groups, house groups, cells and class meetings.

*Eternal God,
who art the light of the minds that know you,
the joy of the hearts that love you,
and the strength of the wills that serve you;
grant us so to know you that we may truly love you,
and so to love you that we may fully serve you,
whom to serve is perfect freedom,
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*

Saint Augustine