

1-Aug	At the beginning of what is often seen as a holiday month, we pray for businesses, employers, and employees whose livelihoods are at stake due to the impact of lockdown on the hospitality sector.	8-Aug	We remember all Christians who work in local and national government. May they be strengthened to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with God.	15-Aug	Covid-19 is a game changer. Pray for yourself today – for boldness of faith to trust Jesus for whatever changes the Church must face as she seeks to live out the real and relevant presence of Christ
2-Aug	<u>Matthew 14:13-21</u> Despite Jesus looking for a quiet place to be alone, the crowds saw something in Jesus that couldn't keep them away. Jesus had compassion on them. Pray that others will see something in us, as God's people, that cannot keep them away from wanting to know Christ.	9-Aug	<u>Matthew 14:22-33</u> What does it mean for your faith that Jesus can walk on water despite the raging storm? Pray that as a circuit, as churches, and as disciples we will hear and respond to Christ's invitation to take courage and come to him.	16-Aug	<u>Matthew 15:(10-20) 21-28</u> Is it strange that Jesus refuses an opportunity to heal? Even Jesus had to keep focussed on the work he was appointed to do. Pray for the circuit, the churches and yourself, that we will not be distracted, even by what seems 'good.' May we discern and commit to God's work for us for such a time as this
3-Aug	As some restrictions are lifted, we pray for funeral directors ministering alongside the grieving. May they be channels of hope. We pray the peace of Christ – a peace the world cannot give – for all for whom grief is more difficult because of Covid-19.	10-Aug	Today, we ask God to bless all who work in our courts of law, who hold people's futures in their decision making. May God guide their understanding of each situation and the decisions that are made.	17-Aug	We pray for Revds Godfrey Nicholson and Tim Boocock, and their families, moving into new homes. May they know God with them in all that their new adventures hold
4-Aug	We pray for Circuit Stewards, especially where difficult decisions are needed due to the recent closure of church buildings. May their leadership be steeped in prayer and rooted in God's wisdom.	11-Aug	We pray for church, circuit and district safeguarding officers who continue to minister in sensitive situations We also pray for those for whom the ongoing restrictions continue to put them in dangerous and abusive situations.	18-Aug	The pandemic is a sharp reminder of the importance of relationship. Jesus also reminds us to love our neighbours as ourselves. Pray today for your neighbours – what small act of kindness can you do for them today? Go on ... you can do it!
5-Aug	We pray for all who work in the care system - in homes and in the community – May they be a breath of hope even as they recognise their invaluable ministry to those who are vulnerable.	12-Aug	Pray today for your Church's leadership team and property and finance team. May each be upheld in Christ's power at this difficult time of working towards re-opening with all its extra responsibilities.	19-Aug	We pray for all who work in finance, especially those who work in debt management and benefit assessment. We pray for God's guidance and wisdom.
6-Aug	We remember those in our communities who do not feel safe, thinking too of refugees and asylum seekers, and those who live in areas of high crime.	13-Aug	For all receiving exam results, especially where exams were disrupted by Covid-19, we pray for courage to take hold of new opportunities; support where plans must change, and trust to believe that results don't define one's self-worth or value.	20-Aug	Pray for other denominations and faith communities in the vicinity of your local church. May we continue to build effective relationships that further God's kingdom of grace as we work together
7-Aug	Give thanks today for your minister and pray for their spiritual protection, renewal and inspiration as they minister to us.	14-Aug	We pray for all who need to access food banks, and for all who donate to, or work in the provision of this vital support. May all find Kingdom hope in this ministry.	21-Aug	We thank God and pray for the varied discipleship groups meeting across the circuit, offering encouragement and fresh learning as we live out our walk of faith

22-Aug We remember our superintendent Revd. Jo and her family. We pray for holidays as a time of renewal, of fun and laughter together, for rest and renewal. We pray too for God's wisdom and guidance for Jo at the beginning of the new Church year.

23-Aug Matthew 16:13-20 At first, the disciples answer Jesus' question with the common views of who Jesus is. There are many 'common' views today about Jesus. Who do you say he is? If he is the Christ, pray for God's Spirit to help you make Christ known to those you will meet this week.

24-Aug For all ordained and lay people starting new appointments for this next church year, we pray God's welcome as they settle, God's grace in new encounters, and God's wisdom in discerning new ministries, remembering especially Revd Pete and Deacon Guy in this circuit.

25-Aug We pray for the families of those who've moved home for new appointments in churches or any other new role, especially for children who have moved schools. May all be held in love and hopeful expectation as they 'find their feet' and settle into new homes. We pray for those they leave behind who will miss them.

*Man says... Show me
and I'll trust you.*

*God says... Trust me
and I'll show you.*

Psalm 126:6

26-Aug Jesus tells us to love our enemies. Pray today that Jesus might help you to see what he sees in someone you find it less easy to like. How might you offer peace in a difficult relationship?

27-Aug We pray for Rev Kerry Tankard, our District Chair, and all who work within the District team, especially as they look to welcome new people to Yorkshire West and new people to various district ministry teams.

28-Aug During lockdown, we have been blessed by pastoral visitors, not least through their phone calls and socially distanced visits. We pray God's blessing today on all who exercise a pastoral ministry.

29-Aug We give thanks for all who continue to produce circuit worship resources online and in written form. Pray that you might be open to God's message for you, and for a willingness to trust yourself to God.

30-Aug Matthew 16:21-28 News of Jesus death would be as hard hitting as hearing the cost of discipleship – to give up self. Ask Jesus what you need to 'give up' to Christ for a post-Covid-19 Church to be born for those who still ache for Christ's love?

31-Aug Imagine Jesus is sat with you now. What do you need to ask of him? What might he reply? Trust that Jesus' answers to our prayers are always rooted in God's 'love-filled best' for us.

Lord, you have come to the seashore, neither searching for the rich nor the wise, desiring only that I should follow.

*O Lord, with your eyes set upon me,
gently smiling, you have spoken my name.*

*All I longed for I have found by the water,
at your side I will seek other shores Singing the Faith 538*



Prayer Diary

Aug 2020

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

*It's a strange thought that sometimes
God trusts us more than we trust God.
God trusts you – will you trust God?*

