

1-Jan	On this first day of a new year, imagine Jesus by your side asking 'What do you want me to do for you?' What would you ask? Make that today's prayer.	8-Jan	Remembering that the Holy Family had to flee from their home, let us pray today for refugees and asylum seekers, recognising the enormity of such choices.	15-Jan	Today we pray wisdom and grace for all who maintain law and order in our nation, including police, lawyers, those who work in the Law Courts and probation officers.
2-Jan	<i>John 1:1-18</i> <small>Msg</small> <i>The Word became flesh and blood and moved into the neighbourhood.</i> As we begin 2022, will you commit to pray for the Circuit and your local church, that we might recognise where God is at work in the neighbourhood, and join in?	9-Jan	<i>Luke 3:15-17, 21-22</i> <i>'But one who is more powerful than I is coming.'</i> What does it mean to you that Jesus is powerful? Do you expect Jesus to answer prayers with power? How might this change how you pray this week / month / year?	16-Jan	<i>John 2:1-11</i> <i>'His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."</i> Imagine you were a servant ... would you have done as Jesus said? Pray that you will have the confidence of faith and the wisdom of prayer to do as Jesus tells you.
3-Jan	We remember today, those who have to work difficult shifts and those who work away from home, missing the support of family and friends. We remember too, those who work 'Zero hour' contracts	10-Jan	We pray today for the Circuit Stewards – for wisdom as well as much joy in serving God through the life of the circuit. May they help to shape our travel in 2022.	17-Jan	In the ongoing concerns of Covid and the Omicron variant, we pray for researchers and those who continue to find breakthroughs in vaccines and medicines.
4-Jan	Our young people involved in education have had a challenging time. As schools and colleges restart, we pray for a love of learning and for teachers / tutors to see the best in their students. We pray too for less Covid disruption to learning in 2022.	11-Jan	We pray today for the ministries across our churches that offer care, fellowship and hope to those in the community, especially those who feel isolated. May God touch lives through our lives.	18-Jan	We pray for our circuit local preachers and leaders of worship. Thank you Lord for their commitment to share your Word. Please inspire them with insight and imagination, and increase our expectation of encountering you in worship Lord.
5-Jan	Think of someone you know who works in education or is studying. As you pray for them, why not send a note of thanks or make a phone call to encourage them?	12-Jan	Today we pray for Rev Rach as our Circuit Discipleship Enabler as she attends 'Re-imagining Discipleship' at Cliff College. Lord, inspire her within the context of the LSW circuit and give us all a spirit of adventure to journey forward together, with you.	19-Jan	We pray today for people waiting for or undergoing medical surgery or treatment, especially where those may have been delayed because of the Covid situation. May they know healing ... and if this is you, know yourself held in prayer too.
6-Jan	Epiphany: <i>Matthew 2:1-12</i> <small>Msg</small> <i>They could hardly contain themselves: They were in the right place! They had arrived at the right time!</i> Where is God showing you to be in the right place for such a time as this? Give thanks and pray for wisdom.	13-Jan	Holy God, please would you strengthen all who work for and within the NHS, that in these continuing days of the pandemic, they may know a strength beyond their own, and renewing of hope.	20-Jan	Today we thank God for the gift of family – for the good times, and the tough times we share together. We remember those for whom family is not a good relationship
7-Jan	A Methodist Way of Life WORSHIP: <i>We will pray daily.</i> How easy or hard do you find it to pray? Remember God loves it when we turn to God in prayer. Ask God to grow your prayer life this year.	14-Jan	A MWoL LEARNING & CARING: <i>We will care for ourselves and those around us.</i> How well balanced are these two areas of care? Are you tempted to care for others more than yourself? Or for yourself more than others? Ask God to help you maintain a healthy 'care' balance in 2022.	21-Jan	A MWoL SERVICE: <i>We will help people in our communities and beyond.</i> How might you help a neighbour or a stranger today? Sometimes we imagine we know what another person needs ... ask God to reveal a real, rather than an assumed need as you help neighbour or stranger.

22-Jan Today the President and Vice President of Conference, Rev Sonia Hicks and Mrs Barbara Easton are visiting the Yorkshire West District. We pray for safe travel, inspired encounters and mutual learning in the Connexion as well as in our District.

23-Jan Luke 4:14-21 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor.' How do you see Jesus as anointed? Do you believe Jesus will anoint you to bring good news to the poor? Offer yourself in prayer

24-Jan We pray for Deacon Guy as he continues to build a worshipping community based in and through the Circuit community house. Lord, would you inspire him, grow connexions and open new opportunities for witness, mission and ministry.

25-Jan We pray for young people in our churches and uniformed organisations. May all who mentor them see the best in these young people. Let us pray that the young people in our churches will discover an authentic and lasting faith in God.

26-Jan We pray for social workers, especially when they are overwhelmed with too heavy a caseload – Lord, please would you give them insight beyond their own, especially when children are at such risk that their lives are in danger.

We have to pray with our eyes on God, NOT on the difficulties.

~ Oswald

27-Jan We pray courage for all who work in the emergency services, especially when they are called to dangerous and horrific situations.

28-Jan A MWoL EVANGELISM: *We will speak of the love of God.* We don't find this easy but Jesus gives us a commission. Think of a time you have been aware of God's love this week. Pray for an opportunity to share this with a friend.

29-Jan For many in our communities, this time of year can be difficult as the financial impact of Christmas and debts come into focus. Lord, we pray for those in our communities living 'below the breadline' who strive to make ends meet. We pray God's blessing on our church missions which seek to support those who struggle.

30-Jan Luke 4:21-30 'All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth ...' Ask God's Spirit to give you a right confidence to speak of Jesus, of the amazing ways Jesus works in your life, in the world and the church.

31-Jan Pray today for yourself. What would you like Jesus to do for you? What stops you believing Jesus will hear and answer your prayer? Tell Jesus that too ... and trust yourself to God's timing for any answer!

The power of prayer cannot be explained, but the power can be experienced



Prayer Diary

January 2022

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

The OTHER Serenity Prayer

God, grant me the serenity to stop beating myself for not doing things perfectly, the courage to forgive myself because I'm working on doing better, and the wisdom to know that you already love me just the way I am.

By Eleanor Brownn