

1-May	Pray for those who are finding the lockdown especially difficult – the lonely, those who find themselves living on top of one another; those who are in danger of abuse. Let us pray strength for them all.	8-May	Having remembered the NHS staff, let us remember those who have caught the virus as they've cared for others. We pray for the families and friends of those who have died from the Covid-19 virus.	15-May	We remember the many elderly residents of care homes, and those who access schemes especially the 'Live at Home' schemes here in Leeds. Lord please bring your peace to any fears they may have.
2-May	Let us give thanks for those who work in shops and garages, including lorry drivers, train drivers and others who keep our shops stocked with all that we need. Pray for safety as they travel and work.	9-May	Today let us remember our Circuit Stewards who continue to support the ministry of the Circuit. Pray for wisdom, discernment and energy in this important ministry within the life of our churches.	16-May	Pray for your church minister today. As the ministers continue to develop and discover new ways to minister at this time, pray that they may draw near to God for their own Spiritual refreshment.
3-May	LUKE 24:13-35 Jesus explained Scriptures and all that was said about him to the friends he met on the Emmaus Road. What would you like to ask Jesus today ... how will you listen for his response?	10-May	JOHN 10:1-10 Take time today to thank God that you are known by name – there is no-where Jesus will not look for you. Jesus has come that you might have life in all its abundance. Ask God to help you accept that gift with humility and wisdom	17-May	JOHN 14:1-6 Jesus declares He is the Way. Think today how you may have 'lost your way' Offer your confession to Jesus and ask Him to help you follow His way, rather than expecting Jesus to follow our way!
4-May	Today when we are again conscious of being the 'scattered Church,' let us give thanks for all who are producing worship material for our televisions, radio and for online resources.	11-May	Pray for the safeguarding officers in our churches, and for Sharon Brocksom, the Circuit Safeguarding office. May God give them wisdom in their work, and courage when the role is especially challenging.	18-May	Think of an activity or group to which you belong at your local church. Pray for its leaders, for the ministry it offers and for those who belong.
5-May	Pray today for the key workers behind the scenes of the NHS - the admin staff, the porters, the cleaners, the caterers. May God grant them protection and stamina.	12-May	We pray today for the nation's young people who would have been sitting exams at school or in higher education. Pray they may find ways to express their gifts and know their own self-worth.	19-May	Holy God, as we remember those who work to keep our communities on the move, we remember postal workers, refuse collectors, transport workers ... Why not leave a note for one of these key workers to show your thanks?
6-May	Let us give thanks for the ministry of pastoral visitors in our churches. Pray today for your own pastoral visitor or church friend. Is there someone to whom you might offer a pastoral conversation?	13-May	Pray for our Circuit and local Church Admin staff, whose ministry is a gift to our ministers and to the wider church. Pray for the reward of joy in their work	20-May	Pray for our Superintendent, Revd Jo Lightowler. Think of something about Jo for which you give thanks - her ministry or worship, her pastoral care, her leadership ... ask God to continue to bless Jo and her ministry within the circuit.
7-May	Later today, people across the nation will stand applauding the NHS who continue to commit themselves to the care of others. Let us pray for their safety and wellbeing, that there will also be enough personal protective equipment to keep them safe.	14-May	We pray for the young people in our Junior churches, uniformed organisations, youth clubs and toddler groups. Ask that the pandemic will not leave permanent scars on their mental well being.	21-May	At the beginning of the prayer initiative, 'Thy Kingdom Come.' Say the Lord's Prayer slowly and deliberately - what stands out for you? Offer that to God in prayer too.

22-May Today we remember the Yorkshire West Methodist District, especially our Chair of District, Rev Kerry Tankard and all who exercise the ministry of leadership. Would you grant them wisdom and insight during these days of 'new' ministry.

23-May Let us pray for the Prime Minister, his Cabinet and all of the Government – whether we follow the same party values, we recognise the privilege and duty to pray for their leadership – may it be shaped by honesty, compassion and a desire to seek the good of others.

24-May JOHN 14:15-21 Jesus reminds us that God's Spirit lives in us. Today is Wesley Day when we remember John Wesley's heart warming experience. How has your heart been 'strangely warmed' during this time of lockdown? Thank God for those experiences

25-May Think of something you're looking forward to doing when the lockdown is lifted. Make a plan, write in on a calendar! Take a moment to pause, recognising freedom of choice is a gift, and while things are difficult at the moment, try to count 5 personal blessings during this time



26-May In this time when our church buildings are closed, we pray that our local preachers and worship leaders across the circuit find a time of renewal, rest and refreshment.

27-May We pray for the media. We recognise that we can feel 'media-fatigue' with so much to take in. Please give us discernment of your Spirit as we read and listen to reports, and give the media a desire for integrity, not for sensationalism.

28-May Today let us remember those who are concerned for their jobs and/or their businesses due to the Coronavirus shutdown. You may know someone in this position. We also pray for those who have plenty, to be generous in how they give.

29-May Today we pray for those who work in education, especially those who are keeping schools open for the children of key workers, and those who are producing resources for children to use at home.

30-May We remember those who are continuing to support the very poorest in our communities. We pray for our local food banks and those who need to access them

31-May Today is Pentecost Sunday. Many of us would have been at the District Pentecost Party ... but we are still Easter people, a Pentecost Church. What gifts of the Holy Spirit has God given you? Prayerfully ask God how you are called to use these gifts on your frontlines at Church, work, with family and friends?

Satan: Ha ha, I've shut all the churches!  
Jesus: On the contrary, I've opened one in every home!

**Let us continue to be a praying church**



# Prayer Diary

May 2020

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

**God understands  
our prayers  
even when we  
can't find the  
words to  
say them.**