

1-May Pray today for your family. How might you ask God to bless them? How is God asking you to be part of that answer to prayer?

2-May **John 15:1-8** *'Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing'* What does it mean to you to 'abide' in Christ? In what parts of your life is it hard to let Christ abide in you? Offer these to God in prayer.

3-May On this bank holiday, we pray for all who have to work. We ask God's blessing of joy and stamina for the work. How might you show appreciation for such workers? If this is you, know yourself held in prayer!

4-May We pray again today for the key workers behind the scenes of the NHS – the admin staff, porters, cleaners, caterers. Let us pray that they will be shown respect and appreciation for their essential work.

5-May Our churches continue to 'open for business' yet the world has changed. How is God calling us to re-evaluate 'normal' ministry and mission? What do we need to rediscover in the mission and ministry of the local church? Not our way but yours O Lord.

6-May We pray for all involved in national and local government. We pray for wisdom to use our right to vote for the well being of the many – may your Kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven, Lord.

7-May Today we pray for our Chair of District, Rev Kerry Tankard and all who exercise the ministry of leadership within the District. We pray wisdom and insight for such a time as this.

8-May Today the District Learning day focusses on wellbeing. We pray for the wellbeing of all our Circuit staff, asking God to inspire their work as well as their rest. Pray for your minister's wellbeing today.

9-May **John 15:9-17** *'You did not choose me but I chose you.'* Imagine yourself sat with Jesus. Imagine him smiling, looking into your eyes and then saying these words to you. How do they make you feel?

10-May We pray for the safeguarding officers in our District, our Circuit (Sharon, Cathy and Erica) and our local churches – praying for God's wisdom, and for courage when the role is especially challenging.

11-May We pray again for those who find ongoing restrictions difficult, especially the lonely, those who find themselves living on top of one another; those in danger of abuse. Holy God, hold them in your love.

12-May We pray for all who work in the media, that they may be witnesses of truth. Holy God, grant them a desire for integrity and give us the discernment of your Spirit as we read and listen to news reports.

13-May Ascension Day and the beginning of 'Thy Kingdom Come' prayer initiative. Say the Lord's Prayer slowly and deliberately - what stands out for you? What is hard in this prayer? Offer your thoughts to God.

14-May Have you received your vaccines? We thank God for the gifts of knowledge and learning in developing the vaccine, and for all who administer the vaccine rollout. We remember those who won't have access to the vaccine as we have in the UK.

15-May We remember those in care homes who have become more confused and isolated because of lockdown. We give thanks that visits are allowed again, praying your love to enfold these precious reconnections.

16-May **John 17:6-19** *'I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one.'* Where do you find it a challenge to live out faith in the world. What would you like to ask of Jesus to strengthen your witness?

17-May In another step towards easing lockdown, we pray for our nation - for those who are scarred by the pandemic; those who disregard guidelines and those who make decisions for the well being of the nation.

18-May Pray for your neighbour(s) – on your street, in your work place, at school, wherever you find yourself today. Why not tell them you are praying for them?

19-May We pray for the Circuit Staff as they meet for an 'away day,' praying for inspiration, vision and a passion to serve God. May they have the stamina needed to minister for such a time as this.

20-May As we continue to 'open for business', pray for your local church. There is no 'normal' to go back to as the world is different. How is God calling us to re-evaluate our ministry and mission? What do we need to rediscover in the mission and ministry of the local church?

21-May Pray for your Church leadership team and property and finance stewards; for wisdom and faith even as we manage resources in the light of the pandemic.

22-May Tomorrow is Pentecost – we remember the disciples were equipped by the Spirit to continue the work Jesus began. 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?

23-May **PENTECOST – ALDERSGATE SUNDAY**
John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15 *'When the Spirit of Truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth.'* In a world tarnished by fake news and celebrity status, there's little wonder that the truth can be hard to find. Pray that your heart may be strangely warmed by the truth of God's Spirit.

24-May **WESLEY DAY** – Pray this hymn for yourself: Holy breath of God, find me in this place. Fall sweet mercy, fall on me, healing by your grace. Tender hand of God, hold me in your care. All my fears and broken dreams, every burden bear. *Come O breath of God, breathe you life again. Stir the embers of this heart, set my soul aflame. Come O breath of God, draw me once again ever closer to your heart, to your burning flame. (StF 345)*

25-May We pray for our local preachers and worship leaders across the circuit giving thanks for their commitment. We pray wisdom and inspiration for their ministry.

*I should like to speak to you, for I know you're there!
Every time I try, I find it's hard to make a prayer.*



*Could you see what I'm thinking
and know that it's a prayer?
Could you look into my heart
and find you're welcome there?
Could I bring you all my hopes and dreams,
my moments of despair?
Could you take what I'm thinking
and find that it's a prayer? A prayer!*

26-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?

27-May We pray today for those who have lost income and even employment as a result of the past year. We hold them in the light of God's presence and power. Help us to be generous with the resources we have.

28-May We remember all who work in education, giving thanks for the resilience and commitment of learners and teachers alike. We pray especially for all in 'exam' years, and for those setting their 'grades'

29-May We pray for the ministry and mission of Cliff College, especially over this weekend of their Cliff Fest. May their teaching and witness be Spirit inspired, Christ focussed and life changing!

30-May **John 3:1-17** *'God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.'* Do you tend to condemn yourself? If so, prayerfully reflect on this verse, asking God to breathe transforming love into your self-condemnation

31-May Pray today for yourself. Where would you like to trust God more? Know God's peace? Know God's gift of love? Ask and you will receive!

*No condemnation now I dread:
Jesus, and all in him, is mine!
Alive in him, my living Head,
And clothed in righteousness divine.
Bold I approach the eternal throne,
And claim the crown, through Christ, my own. (StF 345)*



Prayer Diary

May 2021

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

