



The Methodist Church
Lancashire District

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UK Charity number 1134584

May 5th 2023

To members and friends across Lancashire Methodist District

Alleluia! Christ is risen.
He is risen indeed, Alleluia!

I hope that the journey of Easter, celebrating the risen Lord Jesus, and all that His life, death and resurrection have made possible for us, and all they mean for us, is permeating everything we are and do as individuals and as church – the gathered community, the body of Christ, today.

As Edmond Budry wrote in his glorious Easter hymn:

**No more we doubt Thee
Glorious Prince of Life
Life is nought without Thee
Aid us in our strife.
Make us more than conquerors
Through Thy deathless love
Bring us safe through Jordan
To Thy home above**

DISTRICT EASTER 'ENRICH' PILGRIMAGE TO IONA



Fifteen pilgrims from across the Lancashire District spent a few days together travelling to the beautiful island of Iona on pilgrimage during Easter week. We had a wonderful time, including some stunning scenery on the journey, and the experience of ferry crossings to Mull and to Iona.

We were accommodated and hosted really well by the Iona Community, within the Abbey, enjoying the times of worship, of working together with others and participating in some of the optional programmed activities.

The Methodist Church 

Some of the pilgrims offered their feedback on the pilgrimage, including the following:

I had the most amazing time from the moment we set foot on the bus until we returned on Friday night.

I enjoyed and benefited from the space, peace and tranquillity of the island; being away from the busyness of everyday routine and being able to just sit / walk without feeling guilty.

I met some amazing people both within our District and from further afield

I'm so glad I took the opportunity to join with others for such an amazing experience. It was great to journey with others, to get to know people and to be together. I appreciated the ways we were able to encounter God through worship and by being in a different, beautiful, place

It was everything I needed and more - the deep spiritual input has refreshed me well.

It gave me space to be me and to take time to be rather than do all the time

I have enjoyed it immensely and it has been incredibly spiritually enriching for me personally.

Thank you for your prayers for the pilgrimage. Initial thoughts are taking shape for a District pilgrimage, to a different place, in Easter season 2024. If you are keen to be kept informed, as you would be interested in joining, do let us know in the District Office.



ENGAGE ALL
District Synod Day at Lune Valley Hub, North Lancashire Circuit

Over 100 people gathered from right across the District for our ENGAGE Synod event in the Lune Valley, Lancaster on Saturday 22nd April.

Worship was ably led by members of the North Lancashire Circuit, and we were hosted excellently by the team there.

The business of Synod was dealt with in an early session of the day, including our voting in favour of the proposed amalgamation of the Lancashire District with neighbours in Cumbria, Liverpool and Bolton & Rochdale Districts, from September 2024, to become a new NW regional District, with new ways of resourcing ourselves for mission. We now look to Methodist Conference at the end of June for final discussions and decisions regarding this proposal.

The rest of the day was spent in various workshops and activities, including our Godly Play Bus and team, a trip to Cornerstone in Lancaster city centre, creative activity, prayer walking, sessions on EDI (equality, diversity, inclusion), and engagement with some of our young people present.

Video input from the day is available to view on our District YouTube channel or accessed via our District website. These include an interview with Cat Smith MP (for Lancaster and Fleetwood), member at Lancaster Methodist Church, regarding our engagement with politics, national and local, and a couple of interviews, especially recorded for our ENGAGE event, with our national Youth President, James Carver – one on ENGAGING with our children and young people, and one on ENGAGING with those who live with neuro-diversity.

[Lancashire Methodist District - YouTube](#)

Feedback is being collated, along with various pieces of creative writing, focussing on inclusion and celebrating difference, welcoming all. Some of these are being posted on our District Facebook page; for example, this beautiful piece, penned by Yvonne from the Chorley and Leyland Circuit:

**DOES IT MATTER
(Church Etiquette)**

*Does it matter
if I sit to sing?
If I stand to pray?
If I sit in that chair?
If I wear a hat?
If I give a lot?*

NO!

*God loves me and you
whatever we do!*

DISTRICT PRAYER via Zoom:

As an established part of the rhythm of each week, we now have an opportunity each **Wednesday morning, from 8.00a.m. – 8.30a.m.**, to gather (via Zoom) for a half hour of prayer, including scriptures, thought for the day, conversation, video input, with others from across the District.

The Zoom link for entry each week is:

<https://zoom.us/j/6622518842?pwd=Sjc1VGNOd291bFNybVIQVVJhSjFhUT09>

Meeting ID: 662 251 8842

Passcode: 234567

Please join me, and others from across the District, as and when you can on Wednesdays.

ENGAGE
District Retreat Day
at Shekinah Christian Centre, Newchurch-in-Pendle, Burnley

SATURDAY 20th May 2023
9.30a.m. – 3.30p.m.



*a retreat day, led by Rev'd Phil Gough
(Chair of the Lancashire Methodist District)*

*An opportunity, during 'Thy Kingdom Come', approaching Pentecost
to pray for revival and seek spiritual renewal
- a day of enrichment -*

*£20.00
includes refreshments throughout the day
and a lovely hot lunch in the dining room at Shekinah*

*Book early to avoid disappointment, by contacting the District Office (details below)
(places limited to first 30 people)*



DISTRICT VACANCIES

If you have the time and the experiences or gifts to offer for any of these roles, please do get in touch with me or Carole (in the District Office – contact details below) and play your part in building our District team. Many thanks.

- District Treasurer** - as we lose Ben Riley-McMahon during the summer, when he moves
- District Sabbaticals Secretary** - chairing the Sabbaticals group for the District
- District Education Officer** - linking and keeping in touch with our Methodist / shared (C/E Methodist) primary schools across Lancashire.

We also have several vacancies on committees, if you can offer yourself.

- District Probationers' Committee** - two vacancies
- District Grants Committee** - two vacancies (financial / business / project management experiences)





THY KINGDOM COME
Ten days of prayer from Ascension to Pentecost

Plans are being drawn up to link all our churches and Circuits across the District in a chain of prayer over these ten days – mindful of all that is going on locally / ecumenically, too. Do let the District Office know of any Thy Kingdom Come activities and events happening in your churches and Circuit.

Our District Retreat to Shekinah (earlier in this newsletter) on Saturday May 20th is one contribution to this dedicated ten days of prayer, and we hope there will be a focus in each of our nine Circuits over these days.

Check out further ideas and resources from the website www.thykingdomcome.global

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**DISTRICT ORDINAND'S TESTIMONY SERVICE**  
**for Rev'd Sarah Lamb**  
**on**  
**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2023**  
**7.30p.m.**  
**at Poulton Methodist Church, North Fylde Circuit**  
**Guest preacher – Rev'd Leo Osborn**



Come and support Sarah, and hear her inspiring testimony as we prepare to send her off from Lancashire District for her ordination in Coventry Cathedral in June

**DISTRICT ZOOM SERVICE:**

Our District Zoom Services continue on Sunday evenings, from 7.00p.m.. This is a 40 minute time together on Zoom, led at times by different people across the District, with worship songs and hymns, readings and reflections, and time for sharing prayers (usually via the Zoom chat function).

***THIS SUNDAY, 7<sup>th</sup> May, we are joined in our Zoom Worship by Pastor Adriano Frattini, Vice President of the Uruguayan Methodist Church, who is visiting the District this weekend.***



If you would like to offer to be involved in some way, or would like the Zoom details, please do contact Carole in the District Office (details, below).

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**ENGAGE ALL**

**a scripture verse from 1 Corinthians 9 v. 22 – 23**

**‘I’ve become just about every sort of servant there is in my attempts to lead those I meet into a God-saved life. I did all this because of the Message. I didn’t just want to talk about it; I wanted to be *in* on it!’**

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Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Philip Jones". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

DISTRICT OFFICE  
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