



DO NOT BE ANXIOUS
ABOUT ANYTHING, BUT IN
EVERY SITUATION, BY
PRAYER AND PETITION,
PRESENT YOUR
REQUESTS TO GOD.

- *Philippian 4:6*



LONDON
DISTRICT
2019 – 2020
PRAYER
HANDBOOK

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name;
thy kingdom come.
thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
The power, and the glory,
For ever and ever.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer is said by billions of people every day in every language across the globe. In every single moment in time, someone somewhere is praying these words. They are the first words of prayer we learn as children and often the last words we say at the moment of death.

The words shape lives and families and communities and whole societies. When we say this prayer we remind ourselves that we are not living in a Disney fairy-tale, where every story has a happy ending. We are living in a world of terror and violence and difficulty, where we are tested, where bad things happen for no clear reason.

However, as the people of God, we also live in that world confident in God's love and goodness, his faith in us and his word, even in the midst of the most challenging moments of our lives. Faith is for the deep valleys as much as the green pastures. We may not have the answers but we know that God dwells with us and in us.

The London District Prayer Handbook gives each of us an opportunity to engage with other circuits, groups and commissions throughout the District, as part of a connected people to remember each other and the communities that we serve together.

Contents

We invite you to use the prayers throughout this handbook for meetings, services, and your own personal devotions.

01 September	Chelsea, Hammersmith and Fulham	Page 5
08 September	Croydon	Page 6
15 September	Harrow and Hillingdon	Page 7
22 September	West London Mission	Page 8
29 September	Blackheath and Crystal Palace	Page 9
06 October	Lesnes Abbey	Page 9
13 October	Tower Hamlets	Page 10
20 October	SRC	Page 11
27 October	Notting Hill	Page 11
03 November	Romford	Page 12
10 November	The Chairs	Page 13
17 November	Barking, Dagenham and Ilford	Page 15
24 November	Wembley	Page 16
01 December	Advent	Page 17
08 December	Kingston Upon Thames	Page 18
15 December	Enfield	Page 19
22 December	Christmas	Page 21
29 December	New Year	Page 22
05 January	Newham	Page 23
12 January	Richmond and Hounslow	Page 24
19 January	Deputy Chairs – Revd Paul Hill and Revd Faith Nyota	Page 25
26 January	Teddington	Page 26
02 February	Battersea and Wandle Valley	Page 28
09 February	Synod Secretary – Denise Tomlinson	Page 29
16 February	Orpington and Chislehurst	Page 29

23 February	Lent	Page 30
01 March	New River	Page 31
08 March	Hackney and Stoke Newington	Page 32
15 March	Safeguarding	Page 33
22 March	City Road	Page 34
29 March	Sutton	Page 35
05 April	Holy Week	Page 36
12 April	Resurrection Sunday	Page 37
19 April	Forest	Page 38
26 April	Purley	Page 39
03 May	Islington and Camden Mission	Page 39
10 May	Youth and Children	Page 41
17 May	Westminster	Page 42
24 May	Southwark and Deptford	Page 43
31 May	Pentecost	Page 44
07 June	Barnet and Queensbury	Page 45
14 June	London Mission North West	Page 46
21 June	Property	Page 48
28 June	Wimbledon	Page 48
05 July	Harlesden	Page 49
12 July	District Chaplain – Revd Ian Worsfold	Page 50
19 July	Ealing Trinity	Page 50
26 July	Clapham	Page 51
02 August	Regional Team	Page 52
09 August	Bromley	Page 53
16 August	Reconciliation and Mediation Group	Page 54
23 August	Lambeth	Page 55
30 August	The Chairs (pt 2)	Page 56



*'In souls filled with love, the desire
to please God is continual prayer'*

- John Wesley

01 September

Chelsea, Hammersmith and Fulham (35/04)

Gracious and loving God

We give thanks for your faithfulness and provision

We give thanks for our staff team; blessed with so many gifts and graces.

We pray that we can be known for our unity.

We give thanks that our churches after years of decline are now beginning to grow.

We pray that we maybe good stewards of the opportunities that we have ahead of us.

We thank you that the churches in our circuit are starting to embrace new ways of being church

We pray that we maybe awake to the mission possibilities.

We thank you that you are giving us the faith to engage and speak to our communities.

We pray that we might be people of prayer and action.

We thank you for the diversity of our people; and we thank you for their willingness to serve

We pray that we maybe people of encouragement. AMEN

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

1. Our circuit to be good stewards of the opportunities we have ahead of us
2. Us to be awake to the mission possibilities
3. Faith to engage and speak to our communities



08 September

Croydon (35/41)

Changeless and ever-changing God, we give thanks for your faithfulness with the people of the Croydon Circuit through good times and difficult days.

At a point of transition, we pray that all will know your presence and guidance and act in the wisdom which is grounded in faith.

We pray too for the Borough of Croydon, that in diversity it may be united, and that developments in the town centre begin to show fruit, there may be a growing sense of community and common purpose.

Amen.



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

1. The new Superintendent, Stephen Day and his wife Jane, as they settle back in this country after being overseas.
2. Pray for the opening and development of the Parchmore Community Connect/Food Stop at Parchmore Methodist Church and Community Centre. That we may help our neighbours through our community job club, homelessness prevention, debt management and personal budgeting support to shape their own journeys towards the financial stability, improved housing options and employment which they would like to achieve.
3. Prayer for the Luncheon Club for the homeless held weekly at West Croydon Methodist Church.

15 September

Harrow and Hillingdon (35/36)

Holy and Gracious God,

We thank you for all you have done for each and every one of us.

As we seek to bring your message of Good News to Harrow and Hillingdon and further afield, help us to be faithful to your Word.

Give your courage to share our stories of faith in this Year of Testimony.

Empower us to be bold as we take holy risks to extend your Kingdom.

Keep us attune to Your Voice, as we seek You in all that we do.

Most of all help us to remember that far more unites us than divides us as we keep our focus on our Lord Jesus Christ, the Author and Perfecter of our faith.

Bless us now in the name of Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

1. For the Mission Strategy across in the Circuit.
2. For John as he prepares to sit down, for Ken in his final year of Probation, for the Circuit during Stationing and for the whole staff team lay and ordained as we seek to work closer together with the Circuit Stewards.
3. For every Church developing it's MAP (Mission Action Plan) and may everything be under girded by prayer.



22 September

West London Mission (35/02)

Compassionate God,

You have placed us in a community of business, transport and shops. Thousands travel through our streets daily, speaking every language. Your infinite diversity is present where we worship.

We are challenged by the proximity of extreme wealth and poverty. As we announce the good news of Christ, we seek to enact justice.

We give thanks for those who offer to run night shelters and drop-in centres addressing social isolation. We celebrate our Circuit projects working with ex-service men and women, recently released prisoners, people who are street homeless, and those addicted to alcohol.

We give thanks for the association with the Pret Foundation in providing housing to vulnerable people, for our affordable counselling service, student work and workplace ministry.

You call us to announce that the kingdom has drawn near and we pray that our mission embodies this call.

We pray in Christ's name.

Amen.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

1. Pray for Deacon Belinda Letby, in her first year with the West London Mission.
2. Pray for frontline work with people affected by trauma, poverty and homelessness.
3. Pray for faithful discipleship in Hinde Street and Kings Cross churches.

29 September

Blackheath and Crystal Palace (35/28)



Heavenly Father, you are our light, our joy, our hope, our inspiration.

Give us all that we need to share your Gospel of hope with our world.

Help us to become channels of your peace, grace, forgiveness and reconciling love.

Open our hearts to your love that we may have the power to go on loving and serving your world.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

1. For Toddler Church at Eltham Park as it celebrates its 10th anniversary.
2. For our circuit envisioning day in March 2020
3. For Rohama Asif as she begins her ministry in our circuit.

06 October

Lesnes Abbey (35/30)

We pray for peace throughout the world, peace in our communities and peace in our hearts.

'Peace I leave with you, my own peace I give to you' says Jesus.

Lord, bless us all with your peace and your love. Amen.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

1. That the new circuit configuration may work well.
2. For unity and friendship between our various communities.

13 October

Tower Hamlets (35/09)

As a new Circuit Leadership Team comes into being with the appointment of a Deacon and Local Pastor, alongside current staff and a younger team of circuit stewards, we give thanks for the exciting possibilities for leadership across the circuit.

We pray that the experience and diverse range of gifts this team will bring to the work of the circuit, may provide encouragement and support to those in our congregations and social ministry projects.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

1. We ask your prayers for the work of the Whitechapel Mission, its staff, volunteers and new body of trustees as they continue to offer support to the hundreds of homeless guests who access its services every day of the year.
2. We ask your prayers for our Band for Life Project, the project leader and volunteers based at Bow Road, a music therapy session for people with mental health issues. Pastoral support to individuals is an essential part of the service that is offered, making a difference to people who often lead very isolated lives.
3. We ask your prayers for our Zacchaeus Project, the staff and volunteers based at Bethnal Green as it offers support to people through the provision of social and health and well-being activities, a café and benefit advice. As the project looks to take on an additional staff member, we pray that it may continue to grow and respond to the needs of the wider community.

20 October

Social Responsibility Commission

Gracious and Loving God,

We ask your blessing on the work of the Social Responsibilities Commission as it explores what it might mean to be a District of Sanctuary; helping the District to think about meanings of sanctuary and how sanctuary might be offered.

Help us also as we continue to work with the Community Land Trust in its desire to provide truly affordable housing, as we seek to support work towards tax equality and as we seek to build greater ecumenical and inter-faith connections.

As we seek to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with you, bless us in our efforts, strengthen us in our discernment and may all our work be led by love. Amen

27 October

Notting Hill (35/14)

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

1. For growing confidence in worship and mission, and discernment and the spirit of adventure as the church considers how to use its premises now that the repair works are complete. For a spirit of welcome and hospitality to all, and for all the staff and church members as they offer it.
2. For the fragile Junior Church and our work among children and young people within the church community.
3. For sensitivity to all those affected by the Grenfell Tower fire as the community continues to struggle; for all those worried about contamination and fears of any kind.

03 November

Romford (35/32)

Lord God,

You call us to make disciples of all we meet wherever we are and in whatever situation we find ourselves in.

We pray for The Collier Row Mission Outreach project in the Romford Circuit and similar projects and messy churches around the district showing the power of your transforming Holy Spirit through the witness and outreach of others helping to reach people with your love wherever they are.

We give thanks for the vision which has inspired them and for the people who have been called to lead and guide others and for those who are touched by your missional hand, for the children, families elderly and lonely who are being enfolded in your love.

May your light shine through all that we do in your name and may the power of the Holy Spirit enrich all those who are making that transformation and seeing you at work in their lives.

Amen



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

1. The development of Circuit Mission Outreach Project Centre in Collier Row, which seeks to bring the church to the local community, in partnership with statutory bodies and local organisations and communities and employment of a full-time (30 hours) Mission outreach worker over 3 years from September 2019.
2. Clusters based Team Ministry in the Circuit where lay and ordained staff work with all members of the congregations to seek God's discernment for the way forward and of new ways emerging to support mission of our churches and congregations.
3. The constant assurance of the Holy Spirit for every preacher and worship leader in preparing and delivering worship, especially when they are called to be prophetic, challenging, disturbing and even unpopular.

10 November

The Chairs

God of grace and truth,

we come before your throne with great jubilation for the life of the London District;

Govern our hearts and minds, govern every aspect of our service in ministry.

Be in every thought and word; in every intention and motive;

And help us to WEAVE all that we are,

In our diversity, into your Holy presence.

May we be WOVEN into your Holy movement amongst us Lord,

Such that we weave our being, our hopes and our mission

Into your loving and healing power;

Lord, we thank you for those who have been an inspiration to us.

Thank you, for calling us through the Gospel to serve your church together.

We pray that in working with ecumenical and inter-faith partners,

we may build an intentional connection for the common good

such that our communities may be healed from the scourge of serious violent crimes; knife and gun crime, domestic abuse and modern slavery.

Bind us together across our traditions and move our heart's desire closer to the heart of your desire for us.

Lord, give us the grace do your will, and make our mission a joy.

In the love of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen

'Prayer is where the action is.'

- John Wesley



17 November

Barking, Dagenham and Ilford (35/31)

God of creativity, continuity, and of change,
Help us always to seek your will,
and not simply follow our own preferences and prejudices;
to trust in your unfailing goodness,
and to know and show the transforming power of your love;
Give us confidence in your unfailing purpose,
and make us willing to pay the cost of faithful serving;
That our churches and communities might become
places where your reign of grace is established. Amen

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

1. For the Leadership Team of the Circuit, as new roles and responsibilities are undertaken, and plans are made for changes in staffing;
2. For the outworking of plans for outreach and Evangelism in different places around the Circuit;
3. For wisdom, resilience and resources as building projects are developed to further the ministry and mission of three churches.

24 November

Wembley (35/23)

Loving God, we thank you that Your word reminds us that Your word is 'a lamp for our feet and a light for our path' (Psalm 119:105, NRSV). Guide us throughout our conversations with You that we may diligently seek you before we try to serve you.

Lamb of God, you have taken away the sins of the world, have mercy on us as we attempt to express Your sacrificial love to each other and to Your world.

Spirit of God, fill us with Your Holy power that enables us to continue serving you when the going gets tough and in the face of opposition - from within and without the church.

AMEN.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

1. Members to activate their faith by discerning how to share their faith in Jesus Christ with others, while serving Christ in the church and the community.
2. The Circuit to appoint a new Lay Worker for children and youth who will be actively supported by the membership to reach out to the children and youth in our Circuit and beyond.
3. That the Circuit Thursday Cafe would be developed to respond to the needs of our diners, by the development of additional services or through networking with others service the hungry and homeless in Brent



01 December

Advent



You will arrive, unbidden,
the fullness of your majesty displayed for all to see;
yet, in this season, as we wait upon your word
to become The Word, we recall:

We recall the whispers of grace that heralded your coming
through prophets and preachers, monarchs and teachers.

We recall the mothers of faith, who longed and laboured,
who carried, suckled and snuggled the infants of your lineage.

We recall the songs of angels, heralding the new bonds
of faith and covenant, made real in your birth.

We recall the faith of the stargazers, travellers, risk-takers
who journeyed towards an unknown outcome, stumbling into chaos.

And in our recalling, we find ourselves re-calling – telling again
the story of God come into the world, ever old, ever new.

Come to us, Emmanuel.

Amen.

08 December

Kingston Upon Thames (35/38)

God of love we dare to worship you -

We who are broken,

We who carry burdens too heavy for our little lives

We who forget you every day -

but cannot forget our own past.

We who do not know which we to turn,

but so often tell others where they should go.

We who have not listened to you,

because we could not bear the silence in our hearts

We who have done nothing – when great deeds were needed.

We who have been busy

when love invited us to be still

God of love

forgive and renew us

Teach us to accept ourselves and one another

Just as you have accepted us

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

1. For churches seeking imaginative new uses and development of their buildings to serve the work of God
2. For Messy Church, Open the Book, Praise Party, Make Lunch and all outreach to families and children
3. For ministry with the elderly and in care homes

15 December

Enfield (35/34)

Loving God,

When we hear our Borough of Enfield mentioned in the news, it is all too often in connection with knife crime and violence done to our young people.

We pray for those who are caught up in the climate of fear and in the increased normalisation of such violence.

We pray for all who are working to promote a healthier, safer atmosphere across London. We pray for our Circuit initiatives with “Minds 4 Action” in bringing together people who share Your heart for peace.

Help us to find ways to live well together. Disarm our attitudes of suspicion and hatred. Break down the barriers that divide and prevent your Kingdom from being fully known.

We pray in the name of Christ. Amen.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

1. For the plans for redevelopment at Edmonton and Ponders End Churches
2. For the SPACE project on the Elsing Estate: creating a Special Place for Adults and Children and Everything!
3. For our Circuit’s reconfiguration to be best shaped for mission and ministry; for the excitement and challenge that these changes bring.



22 December

Christmas

God of love,

your promise turns into reality in the cry of a tiny child.

The Word made flesh dwells with us and we rejoice.

In a world that still longs for peace, yet creates war,

you return as the Prince of Peace,

help us to live as those who grow the seeds of love

into a harvest of grace and peace,

that your people and all creation can flourish.

In a world that looks for the quick fix,

remind us that your Son was with you at the very beginning,

you bided your time and waited until the moment of grace.

Mary carried Jesus, waiting, watching and longing;

help us to have patience as we carry your word.

The wise ones travelled on long journeys, following an ancient star;

help us to be prepared to travel to uncomfortable places for your sake.

In this season of light and dark, woven together in mystery,

we offer you our praise.

Help us to sing with the angels, to share our feasts with the hungry

and to reflect the Christ light in all we do.

Amen.

29 December

New Year

As the bells ring out and the fireworks fly,
we welcome in a new year.

In noise and joyful anticipation, many look forward to a new beginning.

In silence and fearful anticipation, others dread all that is to come.

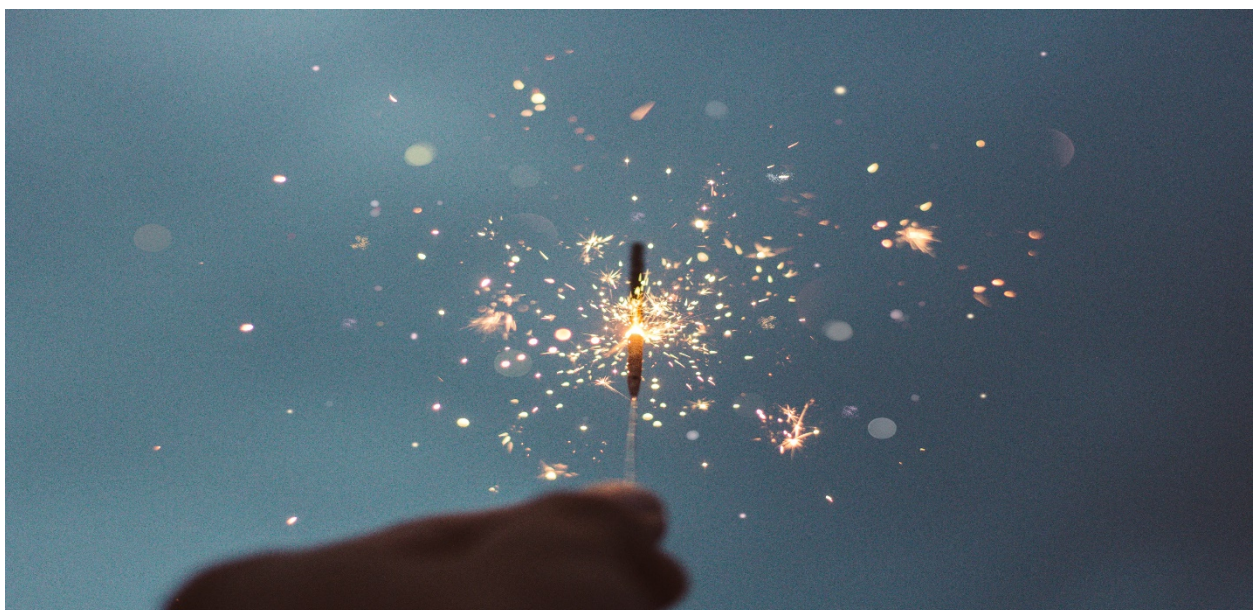
Help us, God of new beginnings,
to reflect on all that has gone before
and prepare for all that is to come.

Help us, God of new beginnings,
to do better in facing our wounds,
especially those we have inflicted on ourselves and on others.

Help us, God of new beginnings,
to be grateful for each new day,
that we might make the most of the gifts that you have given.

We pray that this year may be more peaceful and more just
than the one that has gone before,
and may we pay our part in making it so.

For Christ's sake. Amen.



05 January

Newham (35/20)

We give thanks and pray in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer for His love and mercy to all people.

We pray for the young people and homeless in Newham, who are struggling to turn their vision and purpose into reality.

We ask that You would meet them at their point of need and enable them to rise above the stigma of negative labels, low self-esteem and self worth.

May your Church offer support, encouragement and guidance to the young people and homeless of Newham and everywhere in this nation, enabling each one of them to flourish and be at peace within, rather than assume that they will stumble and fail.

We ask this through our Saviour and Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen!

Dr. David Agyeman Mensah

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

1. We give thanks to God and pray for Faith Leaders in the Borough of Newham who unite to hold weekly morning prayers, before God for the people of Newham to have the knowledge of God through Christ Jesus and work together in peace.

2. We pray also for the youth knife crime within the Borough which is also sweeping across the nation. May God who knows and sees all things please intervene and bring healing of peace and love to all people.

3. We thank God for Citizens U.K especially Newham branch who are striving to acquire empty lands and buildings to build affordable Homes for families in need of homes.

May the good Lord give wisdom and discernment to those in authority to be just and fair in Christ's name.

12 January

Richmond and Hounslow (35/25)

We bless your Holy name, O God, for your providence among your people. You have been our help in ages past and we will always continue to put our trust and faith in you for the future.

When seasons of life come and go, Lord help us to keep focused on you. As each day passes, we experience different climate conditions.

Some seasons bring warmth in our lives and cause us to smile- help us to always remember to be thankful for your blessings. However, some seasons leave us cold, weak and vulnerable- and may the Holy Spirit be our comfort and encourage us.

Different seasons speak so clearly of your love, your power and your beauty.

You are our God and we are your people. As individuals, church community, as a nation and as humanity Lord help us to put our hope in you in everything we do. Amen.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

1. We pray for the Urban Mission project and the work of the Deacon appointed for this special mission in the Alton Estate which is part of the Richmond and Hounslow Circuit in Roehampton.
2. We pray for the work of young people and children in our churches across the Circuit and for those who work with these groups, both paid and voluntarily.
3. We pray for a strong Circuit Leadership team, ordained and laity, who are guided by the power of the Holy Spirit, filled with grace and wisdom to lead the circuit towards fruitfulness and flourishing.

19 January

Deputy Chairs – Revd Paul Hill and Revd Faith Nyota



Sometimes, Lord God, life is hard. The cares of life and our troubled world can fill us with uncertainty and anxiety, and we find it hard to face the future.

We long for peace – not just for ourselves – but for those around us, our churches and our world.

Lord, enable us every day to recognise our need of you. May we live each day as people transformed by the wonderful surprise of Easter – when you changed what seemed the end into a new beginning and you turned what seemed to be the triumph of evil into the victory of love.

May each new day bring to us, to our churches and to our world, new hope, new joy and new life.

Sometimes, Lord God, life is hard – surprise us and transform us, for the sake of your Kingdom; in the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

1. Please pray for our district, circuits and churches – for new opportunities for mission and service.
2. Please pray that all our churches are safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment for all.
3. Please pray that each of us may know we are valued and have a place within the life of our churches – all with something to offer to one another and something to receive.

Gracious Lord,

We give you thanks, for your faithfulness over the past year, and we set before you the work of our district this connexional year.

We give you thanks for all those who continue to support your work in the district through their time, prayer and finances.

We ask for your blessing on the work of the staff in the District' Office and on Revd Michaela Youngson, Revd Nigel Cowgill and Revd Jongikaya Zihle.

May the work that we do in your name bring about your glory.

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

26 January

Teddington (35/37)

Gracious and loving God, as we recall with joy your faithfulness to us in the Teddington Circuit, we continue to pray for your blessing on these communities in which we serve.

As Teddington, Hampton, Sunbury and East Molesey continue to have a reputation for being wealthy, middleclass areas, the work the churches are doing with referrals for people with acute needs grows and we pray for understanding from government locally and nationally that more should be done in predominantly wealthy areas with pockets of deprivation, where the disparity between the haves and the have-nots is so marked.

We also pray for Hanworth as the rise in drug and gang-related crime has seen three shootings, one fatal in the first months of 2019, with concerns that there will be more.

We pray that Hanworth Methodist Church should continue to be a beacon of hope in the community.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

1. That the work at Hanworth with its new coffee bar extension and centre manager would prosper provide a safe space on the Butts Farm Estate.
2. That volunteers would come forward to replace those who are feeling their age increasingly heavy upon them, many of whom have been leading projects for decades.
3. That the work of Baby Basics and The Extra Mile should continue to thrive in their support of young families and their relationship with statutory organisations that refer them.



*'God does nothing except in
response to believing prayer.'*

- John Wesley

02 February

Battersea and Wandle Valley (35/05)

Ever loving and forgiving God, we pray for the churches in our Circuit. As we continue to share our lives with each other may we have a fresh passion to serve those in our wider communities.

May your Holy Spirit inspire and encourage us to be open to new ways of helping those in need and valuing those around us.

Empowering Lord we pray that we might always receive one another with grace, patience and understanding so that all we do will bring you the glory.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

1. We pray for those training to become Local Preachers and Worship Leaders that they will continue to follow their call, study diligently and serve you with humility and grace. We give thanks for all those accredited Local Preachers in our Circuit who bless our congregations through their leading of services and we celebrate those who have expressed a call to full-time Ministry, praying that they will continue to follow where you lead and always listen to your voice of wisdom, mercy and love.
2. We pray blessings upon our Ministers for their gifts, graces and enthusiasms that they may continue to proclaim your gospel of love, that the world might be transformed and renewed.
3. We pray all these things in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

09 February

Synod Secretary – Denise Tomlinson

God of creation, open our eyes to the needs of your world

God of the weak and disadvantaged, open our ears to their silent cries

God of the frail and powerless, open our hands to be used in their service

God of the lonely and disaffected, open our hearts to invite them into Your loving embrace

As you love us, may we love our brothers and sisters.

We pray that you may fill us with your strength and wisdom to respond to the needs of all your children.
Amen.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

1. Whitechapel Mission
2. Ascension Trust
3. Tea and Memories, Hampton Methodist Church

16 February

Orpington and Chislehurst (35/43)

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father,

We bring to you our prayers for all Ministers of our faith, all deacons and lay preachers, evangelists and teachers and all those who by their teaching, encouragement and example have helped us to discover and follow the way of Jesus.

We are aware that at this time, when fewer people are offering for the Ministry, those who do your work are often stretched to their limit. We pray you will bless each one with the strength and encouragement they need. Refresh them by your Holy Spirit, the great Enabler.

Show us who pray how we too may share in spreading the good news of your love for all people, shown in the gift of your Son, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray.

Amen

23 February

Lent

What does God require of you?

He has told you, O mortal, what is good;

and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice,

and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God. (Micah 6:8)

May this season of Lent be one when we work out

for ourselves and as churches, what it is that God is calling us to do.

May we, in penitence, reflect on our treatment of other people

and of God's creation;

promising to love better and care better for all God's gifts.

May we, in generosity, give of our time, money and skills,

that others might be blessed, fed and loved.

May we, in grace, spend time in prayer, bible study and devotion,

weaving our discipleship into a pattern of daily living that honours God.

May God bless us in this season of Lent.

For the sake of Jesus Christ, who gave himself that all might have life. Amen.



01 March

New River (35/22)

God of all creation we thank you for the colours and strands of your beauty and grace and proclaim that all heaven and earth declares the glory of the Risen Lord.

We see You in the joys and celebrations of life as well as in the pain and hurt that surround us. As a weaver you take the strands of our lives and weave them into the lives of those we love and so we pray for them

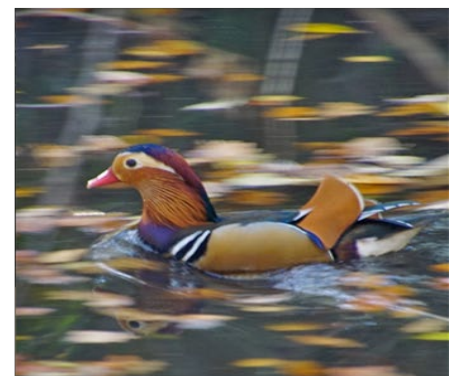
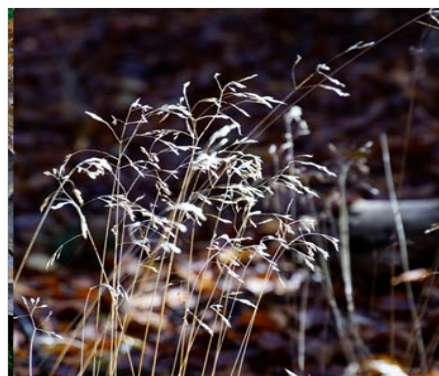
You take these new colours and thicker threads and intertwine them with those in the communities where we live and worship and we pray for them

All people of every race, culture and language bring their lives and experiences and You skilfully create a wonderful tapestry of life in all its fullness

And we stop and gaze on your incredible creativity at work in all the world – and we worship You.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

1. The grace to hold the circuit together during our conversations around the Marriage & Relationships report
2. To continue seeing signs of growth in prayer and bible study across the circuit
3. For a growing commitment to evangelism and making new disciples



08 March

Hackney and Stoke Newington (35/10)

God of the City,

We offer to you the life of the London Borough of Hackney - its diversity of faith, culture and ethnicity, its sense of community and neighbourliness and its vibrant, joyful atmosphere.

Yet for every joy there is a sadness, for every celebration there is a struggle, and for every act of kindness there is an act of hatred.

We pray for those excluded economically and socially by the gentrification of the borough – may they feel at home.

We pray for all victims and perpetrators of gun and knife crime - may they find healing and peace.

We pray for all those who are homeless or vulnerably housed - may they find justice.

God of Empathy, and Action,

in Jesus you call us to love our neighbours. Help us to understand the lengths we must go to, and the price we must sometimes pay to ensure that all your people are safe and free.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

1. The Social Action Projects in the Circuit – the Listening Place at Stoke Newington and the Lunch Club at Chatsworth Road
2. The work of Hackney Citizens and the participation of the Circuit as a member organisation

15 March

Safeguarding

Father God

You know that safeguarding is a big issue in the Church. That we have looked back to review our history and our journey, and at times we have been found wanting. We want to put things right so that we prevent abuse in the future and protect those who have been and are still being affected in any way.

We thank you for all those who work hard to make sure that we are a safe church. For their commitment and hard work when the task can sometimes seem overwhelming. Give them strength and support and the knowledge that their work is a real example of working out the gospel in everyday church and community life.

We pray that you will give courage and wisdom to our leaders as through their influence they set clear examples of our hopes for our churches always to be safe places.

We pray for all those who have experienced any sort of abuse, but especially in a church setting where people should always feel safe. We pray for healing and restoration, but above all justice. We pray that our recent learning from the Past Cases Review and from our direct engagement with survivors will bear fruit that will be a real testament to our church's ambition.

For the perpetrators of abuse we pray that they will learn to understand the harm and hurt they have caused, and appreciate why the church aims to stand firm in applying its policies and procedures.

For all this work to be sustained, we pray your blessing on our London District Safeguarding Officer and the District Safeguarding Group who provide support and guidance.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen



22 March

City Road (35/01)

God of pavement, sky, and earth, bless the corners and side streets in which we work. Bless those without contactless cash; bless those who work nights and shifts. Bless those who live without papers or permission; bless the money rich and time poor. Build your kingdom in this place, and guide all people in your service.

Thank you for the heritage of Susanna, John, and Charles: may their legacy goad our conscience and free our spirits. Thank you for the visitors and pilgrims to Wesley's Chapel, and help us welcome to all. Thank you for the gifts of prophecy, faith, and love among your people gathered here: may your young see visions, and your old dream dreams.

In Jesus name we pray, Amen.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

1. For the mission and ministry of Wesley's Chapel
2. For the new initiatives and Chapel Voluntary community
3. For safekeeping and journey mercy for all who visit as pilgrims to this place, and the peace of the City of London



29 March

Sutton (35/39)



“God is good! God is truth! God is beauty! Praise God!”

(Percy Dearmer, Singing the Faith 403)

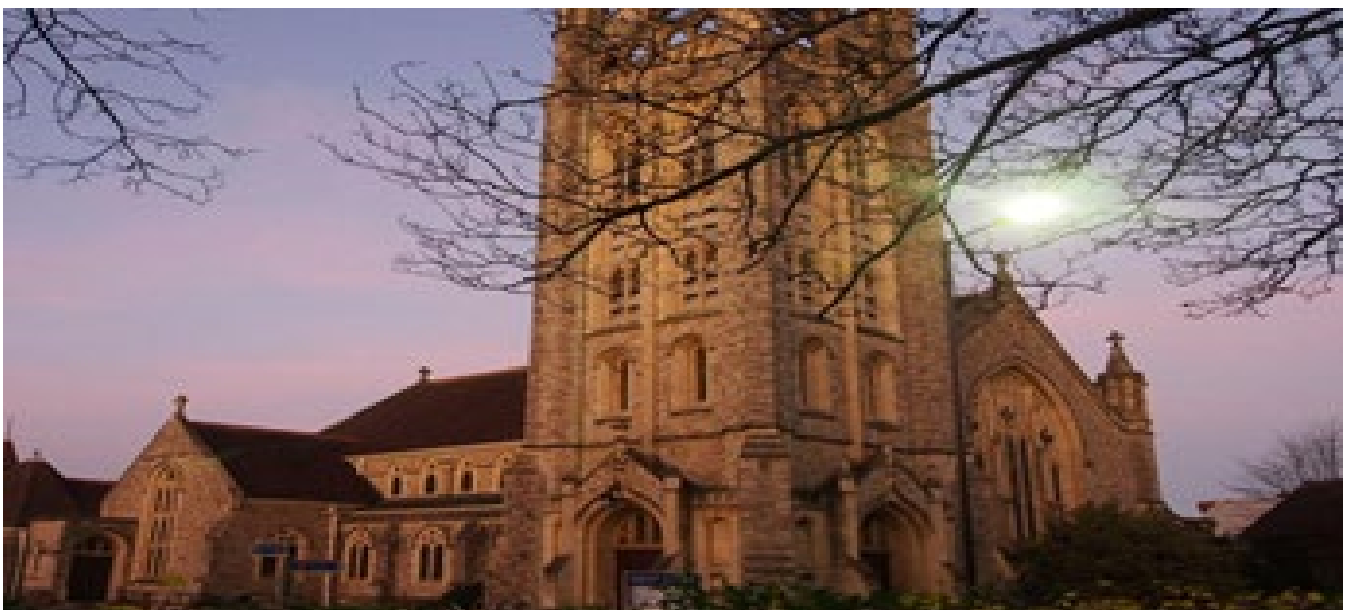
Good God, show us your ways and teach us your paths.

God of truth, grant us humility and sensitivity that, in all we say, we may speak truth with compassion.

Beautiful God, open our eyes that we may glimpse your beauty, and be moved to worship, love and praise.
Amen.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

1. Please pray for those churches in Sutton Circuit who, because of property problems or falling congregations, are prayerfully considering the shape of their future
2. Please pray for the circuit’s capacity to develop new forms of ministry as we respond to a changing world
3. Please join us in giving thanks to God for those churches in Sutton Circuit experiencing growth.



05 April

Holy Week

Prayer for Good Friday

God of love

as we look in horror and awe upon the cross today,
remind us that you share in the suffering of the world,
that you, too, look in horror as lives are destroyed by conflict,
hunger and poverty.

Help us to live as your people, not rooted to the spot in our grief
but ready to move from this place

into a world waiting for good news of new life, healing and
restoration.

Bless us as we do the work of Christ in your world today. Amen

Prayer for Maundy Thursday

Loving God

As we remember Jesus sharing bread and wine with his disciples
may we live as people of generous hospitality,
sharing what we have with a hungry and broken world.

As we remember Jesus' time of struggle and prayer in the garden
may we live as people of prayer and obedience,
ready to answer God's call in our own lives.

As we remember Jesus' arrest and unjust trial
may we live as people who demand justice and mercy for all,
working for peace and advocating for those with no power.

Bless us as we prepare to travel the road to Calvary, with Christ,
in whose name we pray.

Amen.

12 April

Resurrection Sunday

Joy to the world! Jesus Christ is risen, halleluiah!

We thank you loving God, that when all seemed lost, you poured your love, grace and life into the world again, bringing your Son back from death, so that all might live.

Thank you for your love that gives us all the chance of a new beginning – time and time again.

Thank you for your grace that is for all people, without prejudice, for in Christ all are one.

Thank you for your life that flows through the world in your Spirit.

Help us, like Mary, to share the story of Jesus' resurrection with a world that longs for good news.

In the name of the risen one. Amen.



19 April

Forest (35/33)

God who sets us on a journey (StFplus)

God who sets us on a journey
to discover, dream and grow,
lead us as you led your people
in the desert long ago;
journey inward, journey outward,
stir the spirit, stretch the mind,
love for God and self and neighbour
marks the way that Christ defined.

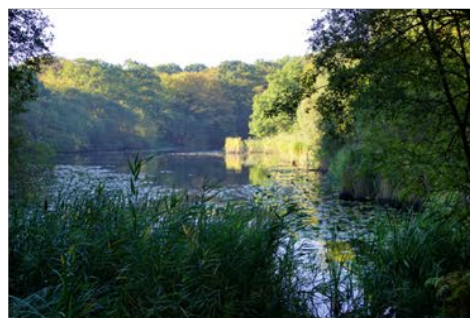
End our longing for the old days,
grant the vision that we lack –
once we've started on this journey
there can be no turning back;
let us travel light, discarding
excess baggage from our past,
cherish only what's essential,
choosing treasure that will last.

When we set up camp and settle
to avoid love's risk and pain,
you disturb complacent comfort,
pull the tent pegs up again;
keep us travelling in the knowledge
you are always at our side;
give us courage for the journey,
Christ our goal and Christ our guide.

Joy Dine (1937 – 2001)

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

1. Help us Rebuild trust within and between churches through the healing work of the Holy Spirit;
2. Renew our vision of the Kingdom and our desire to work for it together;
3. Lead us to Risk being vulnerable, in the hope that others will use our vulnerability as an opportunity to support and not exploit.



26 April

Purley (35/40)

God, we give thanks for all the lay people, who work tirelessly throughout the Circuit, and for the deep commitment of the stewards in our Circuit Churches who care for their places of worship in practical and prayerful ways.

We pray for the Circuit Leadership Team and for our Local Preachers. We pray for further development of the creative use of local people in owning their worship – either through worship leaders or the creation of groups willing to undertake locally arranged services.

God of our past, present and future, fill us with your grace, guide us with your truth and send us by your spirit, with new courage and vision, that we may gladly respond. Amen.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

1. Pray for God to guide the various mission initiatives in our Circuit as we strive to make disciples and show the love of Christ in practical ways.
2. Bless the youth and children's work in this Circuit as it continues to grow.

03 May

Islington and Camden Mission (35/11)

Lord, you work in exciting and unexpected ways,
we give you thanks for new opportunities and challenges
and commit ourselves anew to follow where you lead

That all we do and say may be to your praise and glory alone. Amen

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

1. For the circuit, in which new shoots of hope are beginning to spring up
2. For the building work beginning at Camden Town Church
3. For the new Church plant at the Wesley – 'The Epworth @ Camden'



10 May

Youth and Children

Lord we pray for the life blood of our churches that is the children and young people, that they may know you deeper, to experience your love for them through your church and its people.

Jesus we pray for those, paid and volunteer, who find themselves in the privileged position of working with the children and young people across London. That you will bless them, their ministry and their passion.

God we pray for all the various activities, events, clubs and groups that happen all over London, whose aim is to reach children and young people in your name. We ask for your hand in all the church does for the children and young people.

Holy Spirit we ask you to move in the life of the church, that they will seek to be intentional about and innovative in approach as they seek to reach the new generation.

Amen

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

1. For 3Generate, action-packed and inspiring weekend for hearing the voice of children and young people across the Methodist Church, focussing on fun, faith and friends, which happens every November.
2. For the various people from across the District, who give their passions, gifts and time to enrich the lives of the children, young people and families on London
3. For all the training and equipping days that happen across the District to empower children and youth workers with the knowledge and skills to better serve the children and young people.



17 May

Westminster (35/03)

A prayer led by the Speaker's Chaplain in the House of Commons:

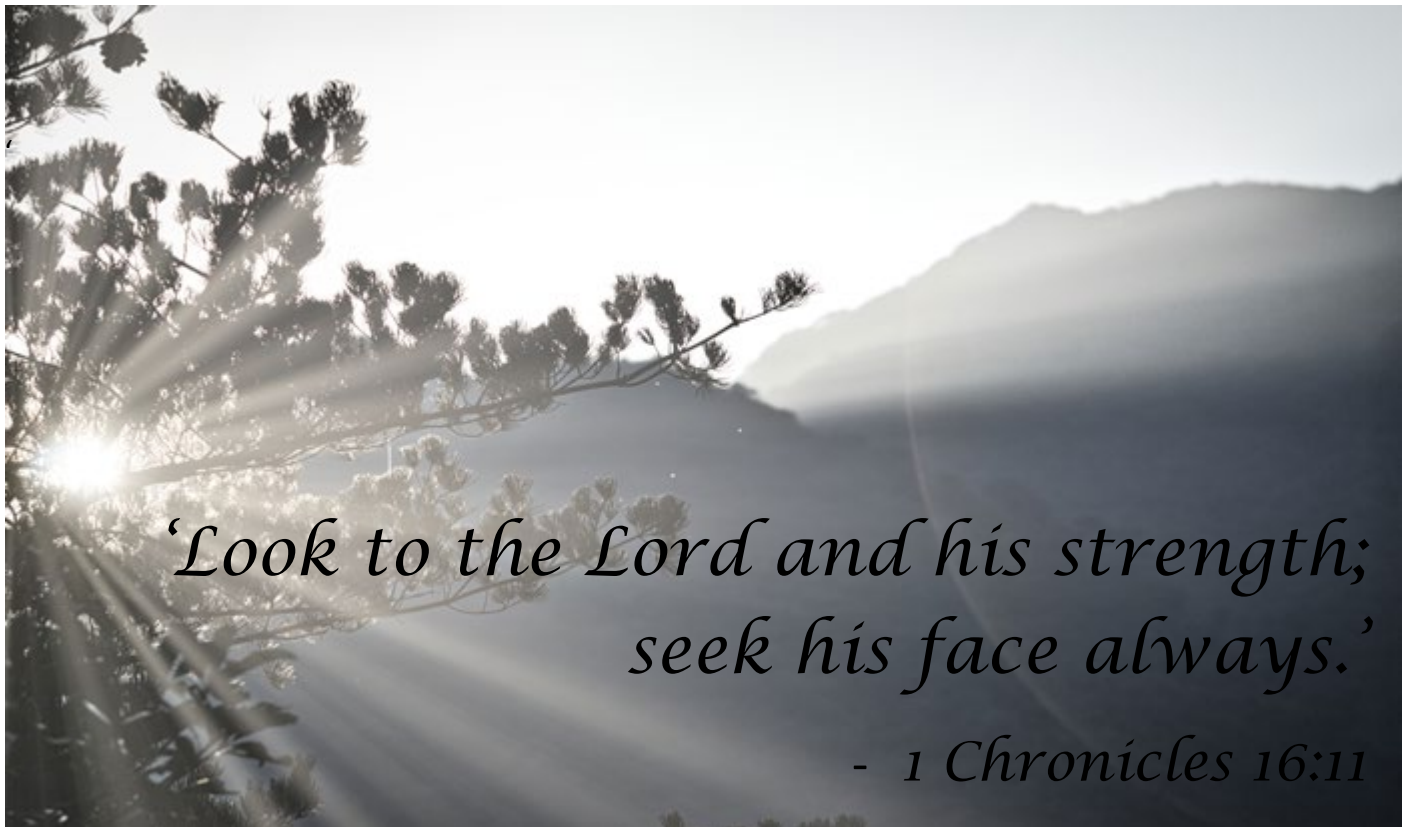
'Lord, the God of righteousness and truth, grant to our Queen and her government, to Members of Parliament and all in positions of responsibility, the guidance of your Spirit.

May they never lead the nation wrongly through love of power, desire to please, or unworthy ideals but laying aside all private interests and prejudices keep in mind their responsibility to seek to improve the condition of all humankind; so may your kingdom come and your name be hallowed.

Amen.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

1. For the continuing development of our healing ministry and our new co-ordinator.
2. For the leading of the Holy Spirit in a time of transition of staff and lay leaders.
3. For volunteers to grow and sustain the Westminster Night Shelter ministry over the winter.



24 May

Southwark and Deptford (35/07)

You asked for my hands that you might use them for purpose.
I gave them for a moment then withdrew them for the work was hard.

You asked for my mouth to speak out against injustice.
I gave you a whisper that I might not be accused.

You asked for my eyes to see the pain of poverty.
I closed them for I did not want to see.

You asked for my life that you might work through me.
I gave a small part that I might not get 'too involved'.

Lord, forgive me for my calculated efforts to serve you only when it is convenient for me to do so, only in those places where it is safe to do so, and only with those who make it easy to do so.

Father, forgive me, renew me, send me out as a usable instrument that I may take seriously the meaning of your Cross

- The Prayer of a Reluctant Disciple, Joe Seremane

(taken from Lifelines, Christian Aid, 1987—with permission)

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

We pray for strength on living with the challenges of life in the City:

1. For users of foodbanks and the Peckham Pantry, those on benefit and managing periods of sanction; for those least equipped to access help and support;
2. For the work of the Southwark Peace Garden at Walworth Church and the continuing support of those whose lives are scarred by violent crime;
3. For renewed commitment to tackling the inequalities and injustices that restrict the growth and opportunities for all within the community;
4. For our congregations and communities that extend to all parts of the world, may our vision not compromise the one God, who is over all, through all and in all.

31 May

Pentecost

The Spirit of the living God
moves in the Church and through the
world today.

Holy God, in this season of Pentecost,
may the Church glisten with the activity
of your Spirit;
may we, your people, receive the gifts of
your Spirit and work in your world to
share them with all.

If our work seems dull or duty bound,
remind us of the joy of those early
followers of Jesus,
whose lives were transformed at
Pentecost.

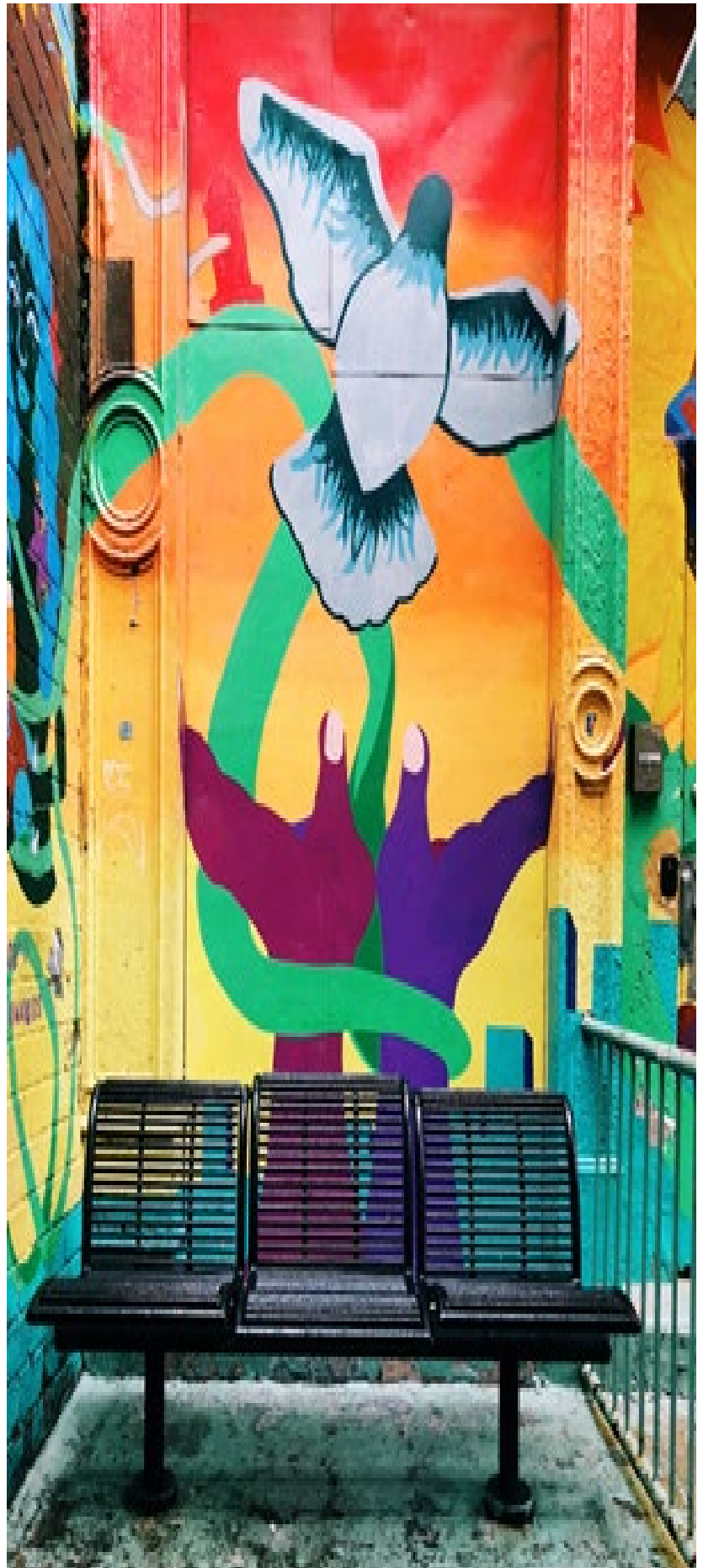
If our worship seems dry or lacking in
depth,
remind us of the praises of your early
Church,
that inspired your people to acts of
mission and service.

If our world seems unjust and uncaring,
remind us that you anoint us, through
Christ,
to bring good news to the poor.

Bless us today, that we might be more
aware of your Spirit
at work in our lives, in the church and in
the world.

For the sake of Jesus Christ and in the
power of the Spirit.

Amen



07 June

Barnet and Queensbury (35/35)

Waken the B&Q Circuit, O Lord,
Open our eyes to your glory
Open our ears to your story
Open our hearts to your fire
Open our wills to your desire

Waken the B&Q Circuit us, O Lord,
To your risen power
To your Presence every hour
To your never-ending love
To your coming from above.

Waken the B&Q Circuit , O Lord,
To your peace here today
To your meeting in the way
To your speaking in a friend
To your guiding to the end,
Waken us, O Lord to your glory

(adapted , from David Adam's book , 'Landscapes of Light'

- with permission of SPCK)

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

1. Circuit Review: Ask for guidance and commitment as each Church is encouraged to develop a Mission Action Plan (M.A.P)
2. Ministry: For wisdom and a response to God's call as the Circuit Leadership changes over the next two years both for Presbyters and Circuit Stewards.
3. Talking Jesus: We ask that each church seeks to use this Evangelism Teaching Course in creative ways to give them more confidence in sharing their faith.

14 June

London Mission North West (35/12)

Lord God,

Looking back, we give you our thanks for the love we have received, the care we have been shown and the help you have given to us and our circuit of churches.

Looking forward, we ask your help in everything the future holds – all the challenges we shall face, the opportunities we shall take and the disappointments we shall endure.

Guide us, faithful God, that we may walk with you and work for your kingdom of justice, peace and love. Grant us courage to discover more of your will for our lives and a deep and sincere love for people everywhere.

In the name of Christ. Amen

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

1. Please pray for the ministry of our probationer presbyter, Revd Esther Akam, as she continues into her second year.
2. Please pray for the worship, service and mission of all our churches, and for our ministers – especially Revd Jonathan Mead as he enjoys time with his new child, Brecon, during a period of Shared Paternity Leave.
3. Please pray for the developing ministry among children and young people, especially the setting-up of new Messy Church initiatives.

*'Answer me when I call to you,
my righteous God. Give me
relief from my distress; have
mercy on me and hear my
prayer.'*

- Psalm 4:1



21 June

Property

Dear Heavenly Father,

Thank you for all that you have entrusted us with. Guide us in the year ahead to be wise with what we possess, so that we can be likened to the servant in the account of Jesus' parable in Matthew, who upon the master's return had shown to be a good steward of the investment left to him.

Help us with all property concerns within our Circuits that we can work towards our District vision of having:

A healthy number of fully functional property, being put to use in a variety of ways, meeting a variety of needs of relevance to the property's location and form; as it fulfils its Methodist mission to respond to your love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission. In Jesus name. Amen.

28 June

Wimbledon (35/26)

Creative Creator

We pray as we walk, as we sit, as we kneel and as we dream;
for your creation and the realities we face due to our selfishness
and lack of forethought;

for your peoples around the world,
those who are discriminated against,
those who call the cold streets their home
and those who flee from terror.

Help us to let go of our own agendas
and look for yours in all of this world we share.
Amen.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

1. For creative solutions to financial challenges
2. For the flourishing of existing ecumenical relationships
3. For Revd's Paul and Emma, Deacon Dawn and the Circuit team

05 July

Harlesden (35/13)

Let us give thanks to
God, the Creator.
Whose image in Harlesden, London and elsewhere
is seen on the face of
such diverse population.
Immigrants, sojourners,
pilgrims seeking life
and life in its fullness



Let us give thanks to
God, the Redeemer.
Whose sacrifice in Harlesden, London and elsewhere
is seen on the face of
those who use the food-bank.
Christ's continuous intercessions
answered in bread and vegetables

Let us give thanks to
God, the Sustainer.
Whose inspiration in Harlesden, London and elsewhere
engenders understanding
and confronts street violence
sings a new humanity
happy with the different other
and learning of love.

To Father, Son and Holy Ghost
To Mother, Daughter and Dove
To the Rock of our salvation
to the Water of Life
To the Wind of change
Be celestial Glory
Be the honour of service
and the power of love. Amen.



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

1. Pray for the movement towards Brent becoming a Borough of Sanctuary for those who seek refuge. Pray for immigrants, sojourners so that their pilgrimage towards a better life may become a reality.
2. Pray for the Fresh Food Food Bank - attending between 80-100 families every week - giving thanks for all the support and love expressed in it.
3. Pray for peace in dense urban settings, for understanding and holding differences in honour and love.

12 July

District Chaplain – Revd Ian Worsfold

A prayer for chaplains

Lord Jesus, often the guest and not the host, walking among the crowds and teaching in the marketplaces, we pray for chaplains, who are guests in the workplaces and who are called to walk among the people, inviting them to respond to the gospel of your love and grace.

Strengthen chaplains in their work and encourage them in their witness, and may you be discovered in each of their loving encounters.

Amen.

19 July

Ealing Trinity (35/24)

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

1. For the work of the foodbanks and winter night shelters and the MHA live at home scheme
2. For our work with Secondary Schools including the Muslim girls school in Southall supporting RE and supporting students becoming faith ambassadors
3. For the congregations of the Kings Hall Southall and the Circuit as we continue to work on redevelopment

26 July

Clapham (35/17)

Ever-living God,
the Alpha and Omega,
the beginning and the end of the story.

Ever-present God,
you hear each story being told in this great city now.

Grant us grace to listen
to the stories which surround us day by day;
in our communities, in our workplaces, among our friends and family.

Grant us compassion to respond to what we hear;
to share in the joys and pleasures of life,
to share in carrying the burdens, of sorrow, of isolation, of need and vulnerability.

May we offer hope, as responding to the gospel,
we draw together the threads of the stories we hear and the gospel story,
in word and action,
in prayer and worship,
in relationship with you, with our neighbour and with those as yet the stranger to us.

Help us, we pray to write our story with love and grace.

Amen.

02 August

Regional Team

Lord God, we pray for the regional team as they undergo a time of transition.

We give thanks for the appointment of Jessica Dalton as a learning and development officer and the continued work of Sharon Nugent.

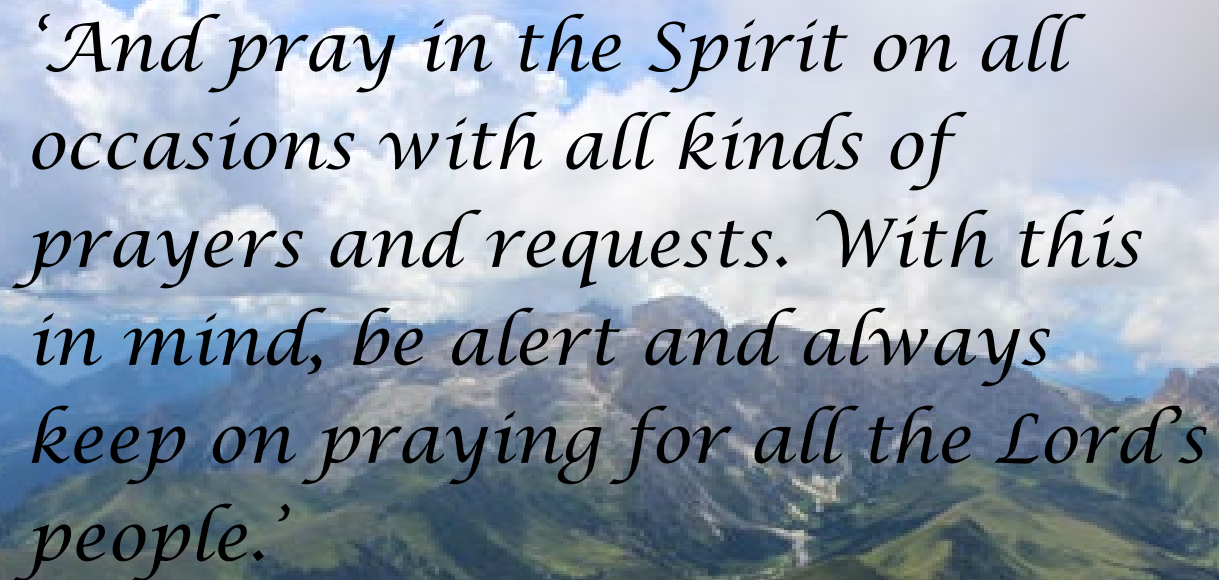
We also pray for the whole team, including acting coordinator Dave Friswell, whilst Jonathan Mead takes six months off for shared parental leave.

We continue to pray for the continued work of enabling learning and development across the Methodist District.

Lord God, you call us to be disciples of Jesus Christ, people always open to learning, so that we may better serve you.

Open our hearts and minds that we may receive all that you would teach us and so bring glory to you name.

Amen



'And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.'

- Ephesians 6 : 18

09 August

Bromley (35/42)

Compassionate Lord

You know we sit in ease and comparative safety here in our churches in the Western world, free to give voice openly to our prayers and beliefs;

So we pray for all those who worship in secret, afraid to speak their faith out loud and for all those who keep their Bibles hidden.

We think of those who have spoken out and have been given long prison sentences for daring to worship you. We pray for their families.

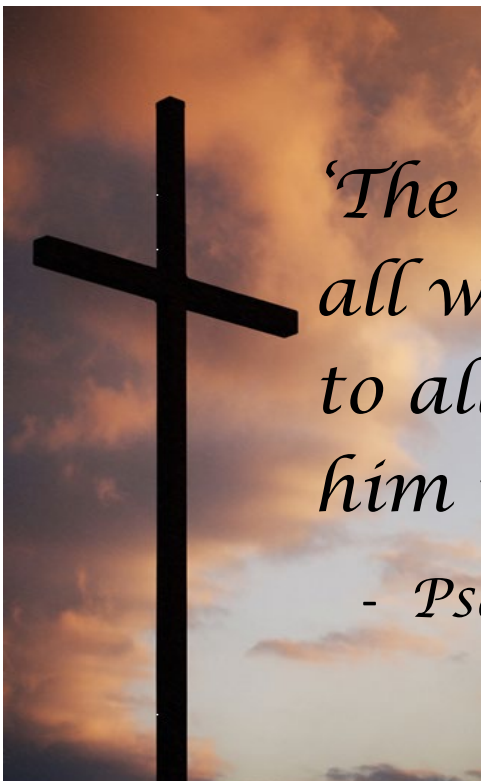
Dear Lord, we ask that you soften the hearts of people in countries where injustice against Christians reign. Give your faithful servants in those places courage to withstand the pain and hardships they face.

We pray that they will know your unfailing love for them and be given strength to carry on, feeling your arms around them for comfort and support in the darkness of their lives.

Amen

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

1. For persecuted Christians everywhere
2. For the families of those in prison



*'The Lord is near to
all who call on him,
to all who call on
him in truth.'*

- Psalm 145:18

16 August

Reconciliation and Mediation Group

Not in the unkind word, but in the honest sharing
Not in the act of hatred, but in the moment of caring
Not in the vengeance but in the costly forgiving:
Reconciling God, we find you.

Not in the uncomfortable silence, but in the real peace
Not in the carelessness of our rushing, but in the noticing
Not in the gossip, slander or lies, but in the word of truth, comfort and love:
Christ with us, we find you.

In the act of sitting with those we find hard to like
In the carefully chosen word where we disagree
In the laying down, letting go, moving on, accepting forgiveness:
Holy Spirit, we find you. Amen.



23 August

Lambeth

We pray for young people growing up in Lambeth and across London who are facing great opportunities but also many challenges.

We ask especially for strength to those in danger of being caught up in knife crime and violence and those who live in fear even when making regular journeys to school or church.

We thank God for the contribution that young people make to the life of our churches – for their faith and optimism and for their hope for the future.

We pray for the various initiatives which are enabling young people to be heard, grow in confidence and become experienced in advocacy, leadership and community building.

Amen.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

1. The circuit's 60/40 project which we run in partnership with the Ascension Trust which reaches out to young people in the circuit and also across the borough
2. For the Community Land Trust project in Lambeth which seeks to provide 27 genuinely affordable homes for local people and for our circuit's wider involvement in Lambeth Citizens.
3. For our talks with the Clapham Circuit and our hopes and dreams to be one circuit across the whole of the wonderful borough of Lambeth

30 August

The Chairs (pt 2)

Gracious God,

We give thanks for London, for its people
and for this District – made up of circuits, churches
and disciples of Jesus Christ.

Help us as we share each other's stories of faith
to be courageous in telling those stories to people
beyond the life of the Church.

Help us to love our neighbours, so that
by our actions people will recognise your love within us
and be intrigued by the Gospel story at the heart of all we do.

We pray for the challenging places in our city,
for places of crime and fear,
for those who work too hard and those who have no work
and for those who are lonely and isolated in the midst of our crowded streets.

May your blessings abound
as we celebrate being your children in this diverse and exciting city,
that others may hear our stories and the world be transformed.

For Christ's sake. Amen.

