



Serving the Methodist Church
in South Yorkshire,
North Nottinghamshire
and North East Derbyshire

DISTRICT PRAYER DIARY

2025/26

**O sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.**

**Sing to the Lord, bless his name;
tell of his salvation from day to day**

Psalm 96: 1-2

Introduction to the District Payer Diary

Someone asked me recently “How will you ever have time in your day to pray for everyone in the Sheffield District?” The image that popped into my mind was of me working through a never-ending list of names and places, which would surely take days: circuits and churches, communities and projects, hopes and fears, joys and challenges.

But prayer is not simply working through a list. Prayer is attention, intention, relationship. When I open my emails, leaf through the District handbook, or read the newsletter, I find myself holding this wide-spread family of faith before God. That too is prayer.

We often imagine prayer as words, sentences formed, requests made, things asked of God. And sometimes it is exactly that. But prayer can also be as simple as turning a thought God-wards: pausing in the middle of a busy day, noticing a person or situation, lifting them silently to God and trusting that God hears the intentions of our hearts. Just as words are not always necessary in human relationships, they are not always necessary in our relationship with God.

So, whether we are watching the news with compassion, or walking through our daily tasks with awareness, prayer can infuse it all. This diary is a reminder of that: a gentle rhythm, guiding us to remember the many and varied people who make up our District. We are beautifully diverse, different contexts, different gifts, different callings, and yet united in the one God who holds us all.

May this prayer diary not be an addition to your daily tasks, but a companion: a reminder that to pray is simply to live with an open heart before God.

Vicky

Revd Vicky Atkins

Chair of the Sheffield Methodist District

A Prayer for the District

Loving God,
we give thanks for the Sheffield District,
for its people, churches, and communities,
for its variety of gifts and stories,
and for the richness that comes from our diversity.

Hold us in your grace when we are joyful,
sustain us in your strength when we are weary,
and guide us in your wisdom when the way ahead is unclear.

Teach us to pray in every moment
in words and in silence,
in action and in rest,
in all that we do and all that we are.

Draw us closer to one another,
so that together we may reflect your love,
seek your justice, and live as signs of your hope in every place.

In your holy name we pray,
Amen.

Day 1

The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it.

1 Thessalonians 5: 24

We pray for Revd Vicky Atkins in her first year as
Chair of the Sheffield District

Almighty God, Trinity of grace, love and power, unite us with all your people and refresh and renew us with your presence. Accept all that we offer you, and may all we do bring honour and glory to your holy name.

Amen

Day 2

So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen.

2 Corinthians 4: 18

We pray for the Superintendent Ministers in our District:

- Revd Romeo Pedro & Revd Debora Marshner (Sheffield)
- Revd Mark Carrick (Derbyshire North East)
- Revd Tim Morris (The Peak)
- Revd John Henry (Doncaster)
- Revd Lyn Gregg (Barnsley)
- Revd Andrew Fox (Rotherham & Dearne Valley)
- Revd Julie Coates (Trinity)

Almighty God, we thank you for your continuing promise to be with us. As we travel through change and challenge, help us to see possibilities that you present and may we be strengthened by your holy presence.

Amen

Day 3

For God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness,"
made his light shine in our hearts
to give us the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

2 Corinthians 4: 6

We pray for the Sheffield Circuit:

- The ministers in pastoral charge
- The churches and chapels
- Their ecumenical partnerships

Bless to us, O God, the doors we open, the thresholds we cross, the roads that lie before us. Go with us as we journey and welcome us when we return. Amen

Day 4

I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears Him and does what is right is acceptable to Him

Acts 10: 34-35

We pray for the Derbyshire North East Circuit

- The ministers in pastoral charge
- The churches and chapels
- Their ecumenical partnerships

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation. You have called us out of darkness into light. Open our eyes to your presence. Open our ears to your call. Open our hearts to your love, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Amen

Day 5

For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works,
which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Ephesians 2: 10

We pray for the Peak Circuit

- The ministers in pastoral charge
- The churches and chapels
- Their ecumenical partnerships

Blessed and holy God, may we your people, be so gifted in love as to be like a city set on a hill: a sign of peace, justice and joy, towards which all may turn whether in need or celebration; thus send us to be healers of harm and bearers of your Kingdom's laughter, through your Spirit, enabling others to see your glory and know the love of Jesus. We ask it in His name. Amen

Day 6

Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known among the nations
what he has done, and proclaim that his name is exalted.

Isaiah 12: 4

We pray for the Doncaster Circuit

- The ministers in pastoral charge
- The churches and chapels
- Their ecumenical partnerships

Boundless, O God, is your saving power; your harvest reaches to the ends of the earth. Set our hearts on fire for your kingdom, and put on our lips the good news of life in all its fullness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Day 7

The Spirit of the God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life.

Job 33: 4

We pray for the Barnsley Circuit

- The ministers in pastoral charge
- The churches and chapels
- Their ecumenical partnerships

Eternal and ever-living God, for the way in which you have guided us and continue to lead us, we praise you! You have shared in our joy and comforted us in our sorrow; give us strength in our weakness and the confidence to believe that we are your people, constantly being redeemed by your grace and mercy. Amen.

Day 8

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

Lamentations 3: 22-23

We pray for the Rotherham and Dearne Valley Circuit

- The ministers in pastoral charge
- The churches and chapels
- Their ecumenical partnerships

Eternal God, grant that we who dream dreams and see visions, may receive the continual help of your Holy Spirit that thoughts may be turned into events and ideas into reality and so creatively bless the world. Amen

Day 9

Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.

Psalm 103: 2

We pray for the Trinity Circuit

- The ministers in pastoral charge
- The churches and chapels
- Their ecumenical partnerships

Eternal God, we ask for love to uphold us, strength to sustain us, and wisdom to inform us; that we may focus firmly on the task of building your church, to proclaim the gospel to those we know and those we seek, to the glory of you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen

Day 10

O God, you are my God, earnestly I seek you. My soul thirsts for you, my body longs for you in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

Psalm 63

We pray for the supernumerary presbyters and deacons,
giving thanks to them for their years of commitment and service.

Dear God, you held nothing back for the sake of generations of people - some of whom have received you, but countless others who have not.

Give us the commitment to hold nothing back in helping them to see that you love them too. Give us the courage to "live the adventure". And disturb us if we become complacent and cosy in our relationship with you. In Jesus' name. Amen

Day 11

If you confess with your mouth "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Romans 10: 9

We pray for the widow and widowers of ministers,
recognising and giving thanks their support and service

Eternal Spirit, Loving God, in whom we live and move and have our being, grant that we may love and praise in deed and truth. Amen

Day 12

What does the Lord require of you, but to love justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God.

Micah 6: 8b

We pray for the local preachers and leaders of worship,
may they continue to be inspired by the Spirit in living out their calling

Faithful God, in darkness you are our light; in danger you are our shield; in weakness you are our strength, in the unknown you are our map and compass. Help us today and always to put our trust in you. Amen

Day 13

Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, the scripture has said, will have streams of living water flowing from within.

John 7: 37

We pray for Cliff College

- The lecturers and other staff
- The students, both in residence and learning from afar
- All who attend the Cliff Festival or other events

God of love, God of wisdom, you have created and sustained the church through many generations. Help us to be the church in our day and age, living out our high calling in Jesus our Lord. Amen

Day 14

The Lord is my shepherd - He guides me in the right paths.

Psalms 23: 1, 3

We pray for those working with children/youth/schools and families

- Victoria Loveday - the District co-ordinator
- Those employed by churches and circuits
- Those who volunteer at the variety of children and youth groups and events which take place; enabling this work to continue

Holy Spirit, you challenge us with new ideas and move us forward to follow Jesus in new areas and patterns of ministry. As you prompt us to change, increase our will to learn and act, widen our commitment to embrace your kingdom and grant us the strength for all you call us to be and to do. In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Day 15

By faith Abraham ... even though he did not know where he was going ...
was looking forward to the city with foundations,
whose architect and building is God

Hebrews 11: 22

We pray for the District groups and committee members

- District Leading Team
- Lay Employment Panel
- Manse Visitors Panel
- Property Advisory Panel
- Sabbaticals Panel
- Church support groups
- New teams emerging as we refresh the district mission strategy

Lord, help all those who work for you , in whatever way, to face the tasks in your strength, both when things are going well and also when they are hard. We ask that you will continue to guide, direct and strengthen in all things, in the name of Jesus we ask all this. Amen

Day 16

If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.

Galatians 5: 25

We pray for all the circuit stewards and members of circuit leadership teams.

God, in whom we live and move and have our being, help us to recognise your presence in creation, in people we meet, in the worship of church and in world events. Overcome our blindness and deafness, that seeing and hearing you we may live to your glory. Amen

Day 17

So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

2 Corinthians 5: 17

We pray for all involved in exploring different ways of being church

- Neil Harland – the District Mission Enabler
- The Faith Rooted Community Organising Lead
- Those involved in pioneering ministry
- Those exploring New Churches
- These seeking to Revitalise already existing churches

God of all hopefulness, for the working out of your purposes in the world today and for the living hope you have given us through the coming, life, death, resurrection and ascension of our Lord Jesus, we give you our thanks and praise. Amen

Day 18

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

Ephesians 1: 3

We pray for all those who serve in a safeguarding role

- Alison Hill, the Regional Officer for Safeguarding
- Members of the District Safeguarding Group
- Circuit safeguarding officers
- Safeguarding trainers
- Church Safeguarding officers

Lord, you are our help and strength, enable us to discern and meet the challenges that face us in our time and place. Amen

Day 19

This is what the Lord says, "I am the Lord your God, who teaches you what is best for you, who directs you in the way you should go."

Isaiah 48: 17

We pray for the Methodist church schools, the staff, students and parents.

- Bakewell Methodist Academy
- Emmanuel Junior Academy (Sheffield)
- St Andrews CE/Methodist Aided Primary School (Dronfield)

Glorious God, who in Christ was humbled for a time, send us into the world to share your humility. Give us, as Christ, the courage to face the reality of who we really are, and know with Christ, the gracious love that keeps us safe. Amen

Day 20

Jesus said again, "Peace be with you! As the Father sent me, so I sent you." Then he breathed on them, saying,, "Receive the Holy Spirit."

John 20: 21-22

We pray for the work going on in the Peak National Park

- Deacon Lorraine Brown – the rural development enabler
- Those involved in the Peak Wesley Way
- Those who volunteer in the many open-air acts of witness that take place over the year

Lord God, let that water be part of my life - the living water, the life-giving water, the water that brings refreshment wherever it flows. Let it flow through my life, bringing me life. But let it flow out of me into the world in which I live, so that my life may bring life to others. Amen

Day 21

He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing. And you are to love those who are foreigners, for you yourselves were foreigners in Egypt.

Deuteronomy 10: 18-19

We pray for those working with those from different countries

- Arman Ghamari – the Persian Ministry Development enabler
- The work of City of Sanctuary, Church of Sanctuary and ASSIST
- The congregations worshipping in our buildings

Lord, may we live our lives that we do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you. So may we seek first your kingdom and its righteousness, love you and our neighbours, and hold fast to those things which are good, true and eternal. Amen

Day 22

My friends, choose seven men who are respected and wise and filled with God's Spirit. We will put them in charge of these things.

Acts 6: 3

We pray for those who are called to administrative ministry

- Katrin Hackett, the District Administrator
- The circuit administrators
- Those working in church offices, both paid and voluntary

God, you are the Father of all. We trust in your love and power. Help us to praise you in all that we say and do. We ask this in Christ's name.

Amen

Day 23

Jesus called his disciples together and said to them, "I tell you that this poor widow put more in the offering box than all the others. For the others put in what they had to spare of their riches: but she, poor as she is, put in all she had - she gave all she had to live on."

Mark 12: 43-44

We pray for those who look after the finances

- Neil Harland – the District Treasurer
- The Circuit Treasurers and Finance Officers
- The Church Treasurers

Help us, Father, to remember how Jesus gave and in your Spirit to give of our time, our possessions and our money. Help us to encourage, to love, and in love, to give to those who need to receive from those who need to give that your grace may be fully experienced in all of our lives.

Amen

Day 24

I tell you for certain that everyone who hears my message and has faith in the One who sent me has eternal life and will never be condemned.

John 5: 24

We pray for those involved in communicating the Good News

- Sam Roberts, the District Communications Officer
- Those who maintain websites and social media
- Evangelists, formal and informal

Lord, help us so to live to your praise and glory, that others may find in you their peace and joy. Amen

Day 25

Then I said to them, "You see the trouble we are in: Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been burned with fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace ..." They replied, "Let us start rebuilding." So they began this good work.

Nehemiah 2: 17-18

We pray for those who look after our buildings

- Tom Rattigan, Missional Property Enabler, and his successor
- The Circuit Property and Manse Stewards
- The Church Property Stewards
- Cleaners and caretakers
- All involved in building management

May our work be fulfilling to ourselves, to our community, but above all bring You the glory. Amen

Day 26

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

1 John 4: 7-8

We pray for those involved in chaplaincy, both employed and volunteers

- in hospitals and hospices
- in prisons
- in schools and work places
- in neighbourhoods

Lord, we ask that you will bring a real sense of your present to all those in need at this time. May they be assured of your Holy Spirit's guiding wherever they are. We ask this in Jesus name. Amen

Day 27

But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you, to give a reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.

1 Peter 3: 15

We pray for the work of the Urban Theology Union

- for those whose vision has been enlarged and challenged by its work
- for the events being put on during this year

Lord, you are alert to the cries of the oppressed and the wounded as well as the comfortable and self-centred, both in the church and the world. Drive from us all complacency and inertia that we may be disturbed and captivated and sent out by your Son, Jesus, who came to set people free.

Amen

Day 28

David also said to Solomon his son, "Be strong and courageous, and do the work. Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord, my God, is with you. He will not fail you or forsake you until all the work for the service of the temple of the Lord is finished.

1 Chronicles 28: 20

Pray for your own church

- That it may grow in depth and breadth, becoming ever more inclusive, justice seeking and evangelistic
- The church council and leadership team and stewards
- Those you meet with in worship, prayer, study and service
- Those living and working in your community

Lord, may we embark on each new day with fresh energy and enthusiasm because we are confident that you will be alongside us in all we undertake. Amen

Day 29

But the fruit of the Spirits is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

Galatians 5: 22

We pray for our colleagues in the neighbouring Districts

- Yorkshire North and East
- Yorkshire West
- Nottingham and Derby
- Lincolnshire

Lord, we ask that through the Holy Spirit, you will touch the lives of all those for whom we pray, in a way which will renew their strength, reinforce their calling, and release the gifts and graces they need to serve you well. Amen

Day 30

There is nothing in us that allows us to claim that we are capable of doing this work. The capacity we have comes from God. It is he who made us capable of serving the new covenant.

2 Corinthians 3: 4-5

We pray for the work of the Learning Network, including Siggie Parratt-Halbert our aligned officer

Breathe the Holy Spirit into our lives, Father God. Set us free from habits or traditions that no longer allow You to move freely among us. Touch our tongues with holy fire, that we may more effectively proclaim the gospel. Fill all our activities with the love of Christ that what we do may serve the coming of Your Kingdom. Father, give us Your Spirit and help us to receive Him. For Jesus' sake. Amen

Day 31

Jesus prayed, "May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me."

John 17: 23

We pray for the Methodist Conference

- The President and Vice-President
- The Warden of the Diaconal Order
- The Youth President (Genesis Padgett from Barnsley)
- The Secretary and Assistant Secretary
- The members of the connexional council
- All those involved in the many groups and committees

Christ Jesus, help us to have perfect trust in your protection, love and strengthening power, so that nothing may frighten or worry us. Show us that by living close to you, we shall see your hand, your purpose, your will through all things. Amen

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