

Wey Valley Circuit Prayer Diary May 2025

This month's prayers are based on Philip, James and Matthias Apostles, Vocations, Christian Aid Week, John and Charles Wesley, and the Ascension of Jesus.

Bible references are from the NRSVA unless otherwise stated. Hymns are from Singing the Faith – StF, Hymns and Psalms – HP, The Methodist Hymn Book - MHB, Methodist Prayer Handbook – MPH. Prayers from the liturgy of the Easter period from the Methodist Worship Book MWB are featured throughout the month. Other resources are as noted.

*Fresh Bluebells
blooming among the
trees, in the Chiltern
Hills near Amersham.
May 2024*



Thursday 1st May Day – The Traditional Festival to celebrate the coming of Summer – In the light of Climate Change reflect on these words by Eleanor Farjeon (StF 136):

Morning has broken like the first morning; blackbird has spoken like the first bird. Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning! Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!

Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven, like the first dewfall on the first grass. Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden, sprung in completeness where his feet pass. Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning born of the one light Eden saw play! Praise with elation, praise every morning, God's re-creation of the new day.

❖ Pray as the Spirit leads.

Friday 2nd *God's free mercy streams over all the world, and God's banner gleams everywhere unfurled. Broad and deep and glorious as the heavens above, shines in might victorious - God's eternal love. (William Walsham How)*

❖ Pray for all those who seek to serve the Lord and share God's love across the world – name before God any that you know.

Saturday 3rd *Lord, upon my blindness your pure radiance pour; with your loving-kindness make me love you more: When the clouds are drifting dark across the sky, light of light shine o'er me on my pilgrim way, going still before me to the endless day. (Ibid)*

Sunday 4th - 3rd Sunday of Easter, – Lord Jesus my friend, you ask for my love in spite of my failings. Give me courage to embrace your forgiveness, to know you again, and trust myself in you; I pray in your name. Amen. (from MWB p541/20)

It is Vocations Sunday – vocation – *'A calling by God to God's service in special work, or position, or to a state of salvation; a way of living or sphere of activity to which one has been called to by God'* (From Chambers Twentieth Century Dictionary p1519).

❖ Give thanks and pray for the Pastoral Visitors, Stewards, Administrators, Musicians, Readers, Flower Arrangers, Refreshment Providers, any other Volunteers and all those who Worship in the Churches or online, including yourself. Amen.

Monday 5th Pray for the Ministry and Mission of Chaplaincy across the Circuit, in Schools, the University, other Colleges, Hospitals, Care Homes, HMP Send and any other locations you know; that they may be filled by the Holy Spirit as they share the love of Jesus who by his death and resurrection brings, love, hope and new life for those they meet.

Tuesday 6th Live by the Spirit

❖ (If possible, read Galatians 5:16-26 and reflect upon its relevance to yourself)

The Fruits of the Spirit - love, joy, peace...

Wednesday 7th patience, kindness, generosity...

Thursday 8th faithfulness, gentleness and self-control...

Friday 9th There is no law against such things, and those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If you live by the Spirit, seek be guided by the Spirit. Amen

Saturday 10th Pray for the Ministry and Mission of the Plant Sale for Christian Aid at Woking Trinity 10,00 am – 12.00 noon.

Sunday 11th 4th Sunday of Easter – Lord Jesus, Good Shepherd of the sheep, by whom the lost are sought and guided into the fold: feed me and I shall be satisfied ; heal me and I shall be made whole; and lead me, that I may be with you; for you are alive and reign with Abba Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen. *Ibid 542:21*



Christian Aid Week begins - Pray for the work of Christian Aid in all its forms

❖ Pray for the Worship, Ministry and Mission at Addlestone 10.30am, St Michael's Sheerwater 10.30am, Byfleet 10.30am, Woking Trinity English speaking congregation 10.30am, Chinese speaking congregation 1.00pm, Foundry Worship 6,00pm and 25th, Merrow 10.30 am.

Circuit Service – Merrow 3.00pm Celebration of 60 years since admission to the Order of Local Preachers by Revd. Allan Taylor and Revd. Peter Hills and 70 years by Roland Hamon. (Refreshments will served after the Service)

Monday 12th We give thanks for all our Ministers, Local Preachers, and Worship Leaders we pray that God will bless their ministry and mission in the service of our Lord. With this focus as we approach the celebration and remembrance of John and Charles Wesley, we share prayers from Methodists of the past – make them your own.

John Haine, Methodist Itinerant 1708-1784 - *It is to you, O God of glory, that I come. It is on your mercy that I rely, It is to you, O Lamb enthroned, that I draw near, in your salvation, that I trust, on your peace that I rest. (MPH p 14)*

Tuesday 13th Walter James, Wesleyan Minister 1879-1908 – *Let me love your holy word, O God, anxious to obey its commandments, eager to comprehend its meaning, longing to be guided by its precepts, yearning to hear the voice that speaks through its pages. (MPH p 24)*

Wednesday 14th Matthias the Apostle – *After Jesus had ascended* - 'When the Apostles returned to Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives, they went to the Upper Room. Peter suggested that a substitute should be found to replace Judas. Peter stipulated that they should be someone who had been with Jesus from the beginning of his Ministry. So, Joseph Barsabbas, known as Justus and Matthias were recommended. Then they prayed and asked the Lord to show them – by casting lots. Matthias was chosen as the twelfth Apostle. *(From Acts 1:21-26)*

❖ *Reflect upon what your response might have been in a similar situation.*

Thursday 15th Reflecting on Matthias' position Pray -Give me the faith which can remove and sink the mountain to a plain, give me the childlike praying love, that longs to build your house again; your love, let it my heart o'erpower, and all my simple soul devour. (Charles Wesley Stf 661:1)

Friday 16th Reflect as above; and pray – My talents, gifts and graces, Lord, into your blessed hands receive; and let me live to preach your word (*in words and actions*) and let me to your glory live; my every sacred moment spend in publishing the sinners' friend. (*Ibid 661:3*)

Saturday 17th Pray for the Mission and Ministry and Clothes 4U at Knaphill 2.00 pm-4.00 pm, and Songs of Praise – West Horsley 7.00pm

Sunday 18th 5th Sunday of Easter Loving and eternal God, through the resurrection of your Son, Jesus, help me to face the future with courage and assurance, knowing that nothing in life or death can ever part me from your love for me, in Jesus Christ our Saviour, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen (*MWB p542:12*)

❖ Pray for the Worship, Ministry and Mission at Cranleigh 10.30am, Godalming 10.30 am, Guildford St Mary's 8.00am and 10.30am, West Horsley 10.00 am, Weybridge 10,30an, and all who participate.

Monday 19th John Fletcher, John Wesley's designated successor 1729-85 – *Let me depend above all things, O Christ, on your grace, desire in all things your love, rejoice at all times in your presence and delight through all undertakings in your glory.* (MPH p34)

Tuesday 20th Mary Porteous, Primitive Methodist Itinerant 1783-1061 *Let me be lost in your will, O God, lost in the doing of it, lost in the presence of your Spirit, lost in your redeeming love and lost in you forever, Amen* (MPH p76)

Wednesday 21st Charles Wesley's Pentecost – *Long my imprisoned spirit lay fast bound in sin and nature's night; Thine eye diffused a quickening ray – I woke, the dungeon flamed with light; My chains fell off, heart was free, I rose, went forth and followed thee.* (StF345).

- ❖ Give thanks for the work and hymnody of Charles Wesley.
- ❖ Do you have a 'favourite' hymn by Charles or one that speaks to you use it as a prayer. (I find StF 546 *Behold the servant of the Lord* and 661 *Give me the faith we can remove and sink the mountain to a plain* helpful).

Thursday 22nd Pray for the Mission and Ministry of Coffee and Cake at St Mary's Guildford 10.30 am - 12.00 noon

Friday 23rd Pray for the Street Angels in Woking, Guildford and elsewhere that the love, light, power and hope of Abba Father, Son and Holy Spirit will shine through them and bless their commitment to serve. Give them strength and security at this sometimes-difficult time. Amen

Saturday 24th Wesley Day *'O how shall I the goodness tell, Father, which you have shown to me? That I, a child of wrath and hell, I should be called a child of God. Should know, should feel my sins forgiven, blest with the antepast of heaven!*

(From P50 *The Making of Methodism*, 2nd revised and updated edition, Barrie W, Tabraham Epworth Press 2020)

I share with you 'John Wesley's Rule' *Do all the good you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, To all the people you can. As long as ever you can.*



Sunday 25th 6th Sunday of Easter

Aldersgate Sunday – Almighty God, you raised up your servants, John and Charles Wesley to proclaim anew the gift of redemption and the life of holiness. Pour out your Spirit and revive your work among us; that inspired by the same faith and upheld by the same grace in word and sacrament, we and all your children may be made one in you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (MWB p562)

- ❖ Pray for the Worship, Ministry and Mission at all Stoughton 1030 am, Knaphill 10.00 am, Walton-on-Thames 10.00am, and all who participate.

Monday 26th Ann Gilbert, Cornish Methodist Preacher c1735-1790. *Be fruitful within me, O God and fill my words with your love, my life with your glory, and my labour with your blessing.* (MPH p 80)

Tuesday 27th Ann Mason, Bible Christian Minister 1797-1826. *In my pilgrimage, O Lord, show me the path to be taken, in commitment, the will to be obeyed; in service, the cost to be borne; and in faithfulness, the crown to be won.* (MPH p84)

Wednesday 28th Joachim Lange 1670-1744 translated by John Wesley

O God what offering shall I give to you, the Lord of earth and skies? My spirit soul, and flesh receive a holy, living, sacrifice, small as it is, tis all my store; more would you have, if I had more. Lord, arm me with your Spirit's might, since I am called by your great name; in you let all my thoughts unite, of all my works be you the aim: your love attend me all my days, and my sole business be your praise (StF 562 vv1, 5)

Thursday 29th Ascension Day - Almighty and everlasting Abba Father, you raised our Lord Jesus Christ to your right hand on high. As we rejoice in his exaltation, fill us with his Spirit, that we may go into all the world and faithfully proclaim the gospel. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever and ever. Amen. (*MWB 544/5*)



Unattributed image: The Ascension

Friday 30th O thou who camest from above the pure celestial fire to impart, kindle a flame of sacred love on the mean altar of my heart. There let it for your glory burn with inextinguishable blaze, and trembling to its source return in humble prayer and fervent praise. (*Charles Wesley S9tF 564 vv 1-2*)

Saturday 31st Jesus confirm my heart's desire to work and speak and think thee; still let me guard the holy fire and still stir up your gift in me – ready for all your perfect will, my acts of faith and love repeat, till death your endless mercies seal, and make the sacrifice complete. (*Ibid StF 564 vv 3-4*)

As you journey into next month – reflect on these words of Charles Wesley and pray...

'Forth in your name, O Lord, I go, my daily labour to pursue, you, only you, resolve to know in all I think, or speak or do. The task your wisdom has assigned O let me cheerfully fulfil, in all my works your presence find, and prove your good and perfect will. (*StF 550 v1*)

God bless you all my sisters and brothers in Christ
Graham

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