



Circuit Contact

Welcome to our Circuit Worship for

14th September 2025 Prepared by Dr Lynne Bradbury

Worship in the following locations:

Wellspring Methodist Church, Cheadle - At 10:30am - Local Arrangement

Endon Methodist Church - At 10:00am - Local Arrangement

Ipstones Methodist Church - At 10:30am - With Rev Julie Hassall

Rudyard Methodist Church - At 11:00am - Local Arrangement

The Gathering At St Andrews, Cheddleton - At 16:00pm

Trinity Church, Leek - At 10:30am - With Rev Denise Williamson - Holy Communion

Waterhouses Methodist Church - At 18:30pm - With Rev Julie Hassall - Holy Communion

Wetley Rocks Methodist Church - At 14:30pm - With Mr Dennis Johnson



Bulletin Worship 14th September 2025

Theme: Special Memories: our faith story written in each of our lives!

Welcome to our time of worship, each in our own homes, but focused on God's eternal love for us all. Let's take a few moments' quiet time to still ourselves in his presence and open our hearts to his grace. You may like to read this prayer aloud, to proclaim your love and thanks for our redeeming Lord.

Prayer: Loving Lord, wherever my gaze may fall, I see the abundance of your provision for me, and I bring to mind the beautiful memories that you have planted in my life, even during time when things may be more difficult. I feel the gentle powerfulness of your forgiveness when I recognise my limitations and failures, and I pray that you will, once again, take all those from me, and forgive me for all that is wrong in my daily living. I can track the continual sense of your love, and yet, so often, I put up barriers to deflect your purpose. Forgive me when I fail to share your love and the knowledge of your grace with those who do not know you yet. I bring these prayers in the name of my Saviour Jesus. Amen.

Hymn: Let's sing: StF 59. Lord the light of your love is shining [Lord, the Light of Your Love is Shining \(Shine Jesus Shine: 3vv+refrain\) \[lyrics for congregations\] - YouTube](#)

If you have your Bible, you might like to look at Genesis 9 v16. After the great flood, Noah is reminded that whenever the rainbow appears we will remember that God has made a covenant with humans and all living creatures, that he would never again flood the earth. This precious memory was woven into the lives and the story of God's people.

Some weeks ago, during our circuit service at Trinity Church, I was presented with a certificate to mark my 50 years as a Methodist Local Preacher (one of Mr Wesley's preachers!). I tried to take note of my emotions at that time. Apart from the disbelief that I could possibly have managed 50 years as a preacher, I had a deep sense of humility, gratitude to God and a desire to allow the Holy Spirit, to urge me on and to take my faith to further heights, and make my understanding of the many theological versions within our faith story ever more challenging of my own long held views, and preferred interpretations. And most of all, that my witness for our Saviour might grow and reach out to the world.

How's your memory? I seem to lose more and more words and names each day. It seems amazing, however, that some memories are as clear now as the events themselves. I have had so many wonderful moments in faith during these 50 years. Miss Pauline Davies was my tutor, and yet so much more in the unfolding of the story of my salvation. She had endless patience, having worked out very quickly that I had very limited knowledge, and no sense of what a call to preach might really imply, in terms of faith, or the direction of my faith story.

I remember as a young preacher in my former circuit, one of the more experienced Local Preachers, to protect me from some of the harsher critics of the circuit, suggested that it would be better not to choose any hymns which had choruses in a particular church. I thought that, perhaps he was joking, and so two out of my five hymns, had choruses. I'd love to think that it was something about the way I introduced them, which made the difference, because they sang each one with great passion. More likely, it was because the rumour had been readily accepted, and they rarely got to sing such wonderful hymns.

Let's sing: StF 638 Through all the changing scenes of life [Through All the Changing Scenes of Life \(Tune: Wiltshire - 4vv\) \[with lyrics for congregation\] - YouTube](#)

I remember at a Local Preachers' meeting soon after my recognition service, finding myself sitting with Ceila Prophet, a greatly loved, and very experienced preacher, who had tremendous health challenges. Her passionate preaching (without notes, as she had very little sight), supported by her father who used to read the Bible passages, and guide her around the buildings, filled me with a desperate desire to have faith and to preach somewhere close to her standard, one day. On this occasion she turned to me and asked if I would ever consider wearing trousers in the pulpit - a concern widely shared across circuits, and many congregations had been known to raise eyebrows if a female preacher went into the pulpit wearing such attire! I told her that I believed that if **she** wore trousers to preach, then most congregations would rejoice with her, and that it would set the precedent for the rest of us. She listened very carefully and implicitly understood that the love for her around the circuit would ease the way for us all. The next time she preached at my church, she wore very smart trousers and, apparently, this continued wherever she preached. I took up the challenge, and no one mentioned my unsuitable manner of dress. Our story of faith!

One Sunday morning, having taken my children to Sunday School, I returned home to put the finishing touches to my service for that afternoon at Blakeley Lane. I went to collect the children to bring them home. About halfway home, a car stopped next to us, and the driver leaned out and shouted, 'My goodness, you've got back from Blakeley Lane in record time!' I laughed and asked if he had forgotten that Blakeley Lane services took place in the afternoon. His laugh should have alerted me. 'Have you forgotten that it's changed to the morning?' he shouted. We ran all the way home and, when I checked the circuit plan... oh dear, the only time that I didn't turn up to lead a service. With great trepidation, I rang the, then, Superintendent Minister, the Rev David Watson. In a very tremulous voice, I explained what I had done, expecting him to be very cross. I was greatly surprised when a booming laugh resounded down the phone line. 'Oh well,' he said, 'that's two of us so far making the mistake! I wonder who'll be next.' What a relief and woven into the story of our faith.

I wonder what memories you have which bring joy, laughter, sometimes tears, but always a sense of something precious in your life/faith story. I have been very selective and only shared those things which cause me to have a giggle or to feel that something good had been achieved. The other sort, known well to God, will stay filed for now! Take a few minutes to bring back your stories when God might have been laughing with you, and let's consider how each of us will add to the faith story sharing our salvation in Jesus.

Hymn: StF 698 God! As with silent hearts we bring to mind [God, Grant Me to Be Silent - Mark Hill - YouTube](#)

Prayer: Loving Lord, Thank you for so many precious memories of lovely experiences in my faith story. Help me to take strength from these to be able to reach out, through your Holy Spirit, to help those whose lives do not yield such lovely moments. I pray for those, in my street, or across the oceans, who find each day a challenge to survive and feed their families: those in war torn areas, those abused by people who should love them, those facing hunger, famine or illness, and all who are fearful of what each day may bring. Urged on by the knowledge of the love of my Saviour Jesus, help me to find any possibility of sharing your love and your grace and extending the story of our faith. In the name of Jesus. Amen. And now may the precious love of God our Saviour, our Creator, and urging Spirit, guide us and protect us in his grace. Amen.