

In others, we cannot please Christ
except by denying ourselves.
Yet the power to do all these things
is given to us in Christ who strengthens us

**'I am no longer my own but yours.
Put me to what you will,
rank me with whom you will;
put me to doing, put me to suffering;
let me be employed for you, or laid aside for you,
exalted for you, or brought low for you;
let me be full, let me be empty,
let me have all things, let me have nothing:
I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things
to your pleasure and disposal.
And now, glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
you are mine and I am yours.
So be it.
And the covenant now made on earth,
let it be ratified in heaven.'**

The Methodist Covenant Prayer

And finally, ember days are good opportunities for us to reflect on
and appreciate the ministry we currently exercise. Hear Michael Ram-
say's words:

*Amidst the vast scene of the world's problems and tragedies you may feel
that your own ministry seems so small, so insignificant, so concerned with
the trivial. What a tiny difference it can make to the world that you should
run the youth club, or preach to a few people in a church, or visit families
with seemingly small result. But consider: the glory of Christianity is its claim
that small things really matter and that the small company, the very few,
the one woman, the one man, the one child are of infinite worth to God.*

Let that be your inspiration.



**PRAYING FOR MINISTRY
2019-20 (Resource for Ember Days and other
occasions) St Asaph Diocese**

Ember Days are set aside for prayer for vocations, and for those
who serve the church in different ministries. Traditionally they are
observed on the Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays in the weeks
before the Third Sunday of Advent, the Second Sunday of Lent, after
Pentecost and the third (liturgical) week in September.
Please use this sheet for reflection and prayer during the ember days
themselves, around times of inductions and ordinations and
licensings, alone and with others in your church or Mission Area.

***Prayer for the increase and right use
of the gifts God has given us***

Almighty God, your Holy Spirit equips the Church with a rich variety
of gifts. Grant that we may use them to bear witness to Christ by
lives built on faith and love. Make us ready to live his gospel and ea-
ger to do his will that we may share with all your Church in the joys
of eternal life: Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Please pray for:

- those who are currently exploring their vocation
- for vocations to the ordained ministry from younger candidates, and for those who will exercise leadership in the church of the future as we face the coming retirement of a large proportion of our clergy,
- for vocations to the newer licenced lay ministries – pioneer, evangelist, pastoral minister, youth and family workers,
- for an increase in commitment to discipleship and Christian maturity
- for all the people of God in churches across our diocese as we seek to serve God in a variety of contexts – work, home, community, church
- For those who are currently in training for ministry, for their families and for St Padarn's Institute:

Stephen Barnett (evangelist)

George Bearwood priest (stipendiary)

Annalise Davies priest (stipendiary)

Helen Dawson priest (stipendiary)

Wendy Gardner priest (local)

Stephen Hayes priest (non stipendiary)

Adrian Johnson priest (non stipendiary)

Dawn Jones pastoral chaplain

Toby Jones priest (stipendiary)

Gregor Lachlann-Waddell priest (stipendiary)

Ben Lines priest (stipendiary)

Grace Lomas priest (stipendiary)

Jo Mackriel priest (non stipendiary)

Natasha Quinn-Thomas priest (stipendiary)

Rosemary Rogers reader

Sue Ruggeri reader

Thelma Shardlow reader

Sian Syme Church Army

Jim Thompson reader

Kath Wigley reader

Patrick Williams priest (local)

Gail Woodward priest (local)

Benedict Yates priest (stipendiary)

Local priests are deployed back into their Mission Areas. The focus of the ministry of many of our ministers will be the workplace and they will be serving during the week in medicine, education, social work as well as within voluntary and community work.

As we pray for those training for ministry, it is a good opportunity to think about our own vocation. This prayer, from the Methodist Covenant service holds some important truths about vocation – it may be useful to reflect on the words, and you may like to use the prayer in order to commit anew to God's service.

Christ has many services to be done:
Some are easy, others are difficult;
Some bring honour, others bring reproach;
Some are suitable to our natural inclinations and interests.
others are contrary to both;
In some we may please Christ
and please ourselves;