

A Christmas and New Year Letter from Revd Phyl Dec 2025

Dear Friends,

As we enter the season of Advent once again, we find ourselves standing at the doorstep of one of the most familiar—and yet endlessly surprising—moments of the Christian year. Christmas returns with its promise that light shines in the darkness, and its assurance that God continues to draw close to us with grace and hope.

Isaiah's words—"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light"—still resonate in a world that feels uncertain for many. We see conflict, anxiety, and division around us, yet Christmas proclaims that God has not stepped back from the world. Instead, God enters its vulnerability, its complexity, and its ordinariness.



The birth of Jesus in a humble stable reminds us that God begins great things in quiet, unexpected places. Hope grows in kindness, prayer, courage, generosity, and compassion. It is not wishful thinking but the conviction that God is at work, even when the way forward feels unclear.

As the community at Greasby Methodist Church, we carry this hope in our worship, our service, and our relationships. Your faithfulness, generosity, and commitment remain signs of Christ's presence in this community.



In January, we will gather again for the Covenant Service, one of the most powerful moments of the Methodist year. It invites us to reflect honestly, to listen deeply, and to place our lives again into the hands of the God who calls us and equips us. The Covenant prayer has always been both challenging and liberating, reminding us that discipleship is not an occasional activity but a way of life rooted in God's grace.

Across our Circuit, neighbouring churches continue to explore opportunities for cooperation where it strengthens mission, supports ministry, and deepens discipleship. Each congregation—including

Greasby—will continue to discern its own path as we listen for the Spirit's guidance. The Covenant Service and the Day of Prayer in February will be important moments for listening, discerning, and seeking God's leading—not with assumptions, but with openness.

During the coming months, I encourage you to:

1. Nurture Hope

Become bearers of light in the everyday places God has placed you.

- Speak words that lift up rather than tear down.
- Offer encouragement to those discouraged or grieving.
- Pray intentionally for individuals and our community.
- Look for the good, name it, and celebrate it.
  Hope grows when we practise it.

2. Renew Commitment

Prepare for the Covenant Service with a quiet heart and a reflective spirit.

- Ask where God is calling you to pause, rest, or heal.
- Ask where God might be nudging you to offer your gifts in new ways.
- Revisit rhythms of prayer, scripture, fellowship, and service.
- Let the Covenant prayer invite you into deeper trust and fuller obedience.
  This is a season to listen well to God's voice.

3. Build Community

Community is one of Greasby's greatest strengths—nurture it intentionally.

- Invite someone to join you in worship or at an event.
- Offer practical help to someone struggling.
- Reconnect with those who feel distant from church.
- Share your life with others in small, meaningful ways.
  A strong community is never accidental—it is built through shared care.

4. Trust in God's Leading



As we enter 2026, we can trust that God is already ahead of us.

- Trust that questions are part of faith, not signs of weakness.
- Let go of the pressure to know every outcome.
- Be open to the Spirit's prompting, whether familiar or surprising.
- Rest in the promise that Christ is Emmanuel—God with us—in every circumstance.
  We walk into the new year with confidence not in ourselves, but in God.

My prayer for each of you is that this Christmas will be a time of renewed wonder, and that the New Year may bring fresh hope, deep peace, and strength for all that lies before us.

A blessed Christmas and a hope-filled New Year to you all.

With every blessing,
Phyl
Presbyter, Greasby Methodist Church
(also serving Irby & Heswall Methodist Churches)

