

**Prayer for The Black Country Circuit of The Methodist Church
written for the inauguration of the new Circuit
on 6th September 2015.**

(Originally prayed extempore and written down later that evening).

Lord, we come together as the Black Country Circuit, praying for your guidance for our ministry in these our towns of Tipton, Wednesbury and West Bromwich.

Lord, we pray that you will:

Strengthen the chains that link us together as churches of this Black Country Circuit and with our fellow Christians.

Lord, we pray that you will break the chains that imprison us as living only in the past, and that prevent us having the courage to venture into the future.

Lord, we pray that you will:

Help us to mine the rich seams of your love that already exist in our towns and in our churches. May your love fuel the fire of our desire to serve you anew each day.

Lord, we pray that you will:

Inspire us to live our lives in such ways that, through us, your love sparkles as does light through the finest crystal.

May others catch in us a glimmer of your glory, a reflection of you in the way we live our lives.

Lord, we pray that you will:

create in us, not hearts cast as iron,

but hearts that are warmed with such a knowledge of your love that we may be moulded anew each day so as to be effective in your service and that of all people.

Mike Claridge