

Government is also increasing taxes in April and it will be the poorest workers who will be the hardest hit.

Therefore, we invite our sisters and brothers in the Diocese of Cuttack to pray for:

1. God's guidance for the churches of the Plymouth & Exeter District as we discover afresh how to witness to God's unconditional love now that the Covid19 restrictions have been lifted.
2. more people - including younger people - to help lead the Methodist Church in Britain.
3. additional strength and faith to meet the needs of the poorest communities at a time when the divide between rich and poor grows ever wider.

In addition:

The Plymouth & Exeter District has established a 'Cuttack Fund' to support the development of our Partnership. The Fund seeks to make it possible for some from Cuttack to visit the District, also to give small grants to those from our District who could not otherwise make a visit to Cuttack.

Contributions to the Fund are welcome.

Cuttack Sunday 2023 - 19th February 2023

Cuttack Sunday 2024 - 11th February 2024

# Plymouth & Exeter District *of the Methodist Church*

Partnership with the Diocese of Cuttack



Cuttack Sunday

27th February 2022

The churches of the District and the Diocese of Cuttack hope to unite in the Spirit and, through prayer and preaching, remember and encourage their partnership.

The Diocese of Cuttack is situated in Odisha (formerly called 'Orissa'), one of India's seven poorest states. Approximately 2% of the population of Odisha (estimated at 45m) are Christian. It is an area which retains a heavy Baptist influence from the work of the Baptist Missionary Society. The Rt. Revd. Surendra Kumar Nanda is the Bishop of Cuttack.

The Diocese is divided into 4 Pastorate Unions, each comprising a number of Pastorates, around 140 congregations, and an estimated 12,500 communicant members.

The Diocese works with local partners to support a number of educational establishments, including 5 Stewart Schools, a Skills Centre at Mohana, and teacher training college, as well as The Christian Hospital at Berhampur.

The area includes the large urban populations of Bhubaneswar and Cuttack, the coastal tourist resort of Puri with its historic Hindu temple, as well as numerous fishing communities.

Inland, the area is predominantly rural, mountainous and remote. Between 80-90% of the population in this area is made up of scheduled castes (Dalit) and scheduled tribes (Adivasi).

'Dalit' is the name the people have given to themselves - it means 'broken' or 'crushed'.

As partners, we have agreed that the Sunday before Lent will, each year, be an occasion when we will pray for each other and, if possible, preach about unity in Christ.

**Please will you join with us on Sunday, 27th February 2022 as we pray for our sisters and brothers in the Diocese of Cuttack? They will be praying for us.**

The prayer requests received from our partners in the Diocese of Cuttack are:

Please pray for:

1. the Council of the Diocese of Cuttack which will be held May 2022 when new Office Bearers and Leaders will be elected.
2. new believers, especially those who are newly baptized from others faith; pray for their spiritual growth and for Bishop Nanda, Pastors and Evangelists as they guide them in the faith of Christ.
3. young people who are seeking work and have been held back and frustrated during this pandemic.

**The following prayer requests have been submitted to the Diocese of Cuttack:**

Our country continues to wrestle with the consequences of Covid19. We are also experiencing soaring prices as worldwide commodities increase in cost. Wages are not keeping pace and it is the poorest who are most disadvantaged. The UK