

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God almighty; early in the morning, our song shall rise to thee.

Holy, Holy, Holy, merciful and mighty; God in three persons, blessed Trinity (Reginald Heber)

I wonder how you would feel if you were asked to explain the Christian Doctrine of the Trinity?

The Trinity is a complex mystery which we are invited to enter into and experience rather than to define by the application of logic or reason.

At the baptism of Jesus, we are told the Holy Spirit descended on Jesus in the form of a dove and the Voice of God the Father was heard proclaiming: this is my Beloved Son in whom I am well pleased. (Mt. 3:17; Mk 1:11; Luke 3:22) Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God.

God became incarnate and shared our humanity for 33 years in the person of Jesus, fully God and yet fully man. Paul writes in Philippians 2:7 that Jesus emptied himself of his Divinity, all but love. It was divine love which Jesus revealed to the world and continues so to do through the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit. When Jesus said that he was going to the Father and would leave the disciples another Counsellor, (John 14:16) the word which is used for "another" is one of the same kind, or even could be translated as "clone". The Holy Spirit is not an "IT", the Holy Spirit is a "WHO" !! The Holy Spirit IS the Spirit of Jesus.

As we celebrated at Pentecost, the Holy Spirit has been poured out on all people, young and old, all classes, all races: you and me. The work of the Holy Spirit is to lead us into the TRUTH about who Jesus was and is and to lead us to God as our Father, so that we can know ourselves unconditionally loved and accepted as children of the one true Living God. The Spirit of the Risen Jesus lives in all who invite God's presence into their lives, guiding, comforting, strengthening and empowering us to follow Jesus and grow in his image and likeness.

The early church spent years trying to define the nature of the Trinity and who proceeds from whom. This language risks us seeing Father, Son and Spirit either hierarchically or sequentially. But actually, scripture tell us that at Creation, the Spirit hovered over the waters of the deep, and that Jesus was the Word of God which "spoke" the world into existence. So from the beginning of time, indeed before time as we know it, and beyond the constraints of time and space, The One Triune God exists and coexists as Father, Son and Holy Spirit in relationship.

A Nigerian Pastor for whom I have great respect, describes his early morning prayers as "entering the council of the Trinity" as he will sit for a long time, mostly without words, still and receptive just listening to God for wisdom, guidance and sustenance for his life and ministry. Early in the morning, his song of wonder, love and praise does indeed rise as a song to the Trinity. In this last year, I have been blessed by having more time to pray, reflect and meditate. As life opens up again and we become more busy, I really want to hold onto that inner peace and stillness. I love the image of the Trinity as a circle dance as the Holy Spirit reaches out a hand and invites us in to their relationship of love. I encourage you to take even a few minutes each day to be drawn into the joy and creativity and peace of God your Father, Jesus your Lord and Saviour and the Holy Spirit, your comforter and guide through the days ahead.

God bless you and your family, with love in Christ, Ann Hall.

Rev'd Ann Hall, Supernumerary minister, Southport Circuit.

 *Liverpool Road*
Methodist Church **Weekly**

Notices

Sunday Worship



30th May 2021

Mission Statement

Liverpool Road Methodist Church exists to proclaim the Lord Jesus Christ, through whom the people of Birkdale and beyond can come to know God and grow in his love.

Lectionary Readings Sunday 30th May

Isaiah 6.1-8; Psalm 29; Romans 8.12-17; John 3.1-17

Our Circuit Service available every **Sunday from 11am** via the circuit website <https://southportmethodist.org.uk> or on YouTube and can be viewed at any time afterwards <http://southportmethodist.org.uk/sundayservice> You can also dial in and listen **01704 335755** - a local call but check your network charges.



Prayer

Father God, you have created all things and through Christ revealed your salvation in all the world. Give us a vision of your glory and by your Holy Spirit fill us with life and love that we may praise and serve you through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Bible Study

The Bible Study Group continues to meet every Tuesday at 10.30am via Zoom. You can join the Bible Study via the internet at <https://zoom.us/j/93454975718> or via zoom.us using Meeting ID 93454975718

Coffee after Church

11.45am every Sunday Join the congregations of Ainsdale & Liverpool Road Methodist Churches for a virtual coffee after the online service 11.45am. You can join at <https://zoom.us/j/98378045483> or via zoom.us using Meeting ID 98378045483.

Iona Service

Thursday morning Iona service at 09.15 will start again on the 10 June. All are welcome.

Church Notices

If you have any items you want including in the notices for the next week, please let Lucy Lloyd know by Tuesday 1st June on 01704 536648 or lucy@southportmethodist.org.uk.

Ken Hooton

It is with sadness that I inform you that Ken Hooton died last week. He was one of Mr Wesley's Preachers, and was commissioned in 1974 - 47 years ago. I know that many across the circuit have been inspired and challenged by his preaching, but his influence has been felt well beyond the pulpit. We hold his family and friends in our prayers. There will be a service of thanksgiving for Ken's life at Liverpool Road in the summer we will circulate the date when it is known. Marie-Anne



Return to Services

We are pleased to announce the first Service will be on Sunday 6th June 10.45am and will be led by Colin Fyles.

Birkdale Prayer Meeting

The next Birkdale Prayer meeting will take place on Monday 7th June at 10am via zoom <https://zoom.us/j/94131562794?pwd=Y3ViWERuM1cvRHpmUmRiUmJQR3BVUT09> Meeting ID: 941 3156 2794

Future Focus

We are pleased to report that Compassion Acts and Liverpool Road Methodist Church have signed the Licence Agreement for us to set up a Food Pantry. Completion of structural alterations and instalment of fittings will take place in the next few weeks. Training of volunteers has started: more help welcomed - contact Sally Eyes 07743

660155.

