

The LINK



NEWS FROM
LIVERPOOL ROAD
METHODIST CHURCH



AUTUMN 2021

FROM OUR MINISTER – Rev Patrick Evans.

Dear Friends,

People keep asking me if my sabbatical seems a distant memory. It doesn't. It was a great time of refreshment and renewal, although it has been brilliant to return to the fold. "Really?" I hear you ask, "absolutely" I tell you; and here's why, there comes a time to be part of the body once more.



Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by the one Spirit so as to form one body – whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free – and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. And so the body is not made up of one part but of many.

God has put the body together, giving greater honour to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it, if one part is honoured, every part rejoices with it. Now you are the body of Christ and each one of you is a part of it.

(1 Corinthians Chapter 12, verses 12 – 14 and 24 – 27)

It was quite strange to be removed from the body. At first there was a sense of release and relief which was welcomed, although as time progressed, there was an ache to be part of the body once more. I know some will say that Spiritually, even on sabbatical you are part of the body, and I concur. I did however feel out on a limb, which is not the case when back in fellowship together.

Minister's Letter (continued)

I'm conscious of the words above, 'if one part suffers, every part suffers'. I think about our own church family at Liverpool Road, and those who may feel out on a limb, especially if they are unable or concerned about returning to church because of Covid, or just because they are a year or two older than when the pandemic commenced, with the natural physical deterioration this brings. How can we help people know and feel that they are not out on a limb and firmly remain part of the body?

And then I think of those in our neighbourhood who feel disconnected from the rest of society. We know ow about the current financial pressures people are facing which are likely to worsen, and the deterioration in mental wellbeing these last 18 months. Are we equipped to respond?

It has been tremendous to return to church and see the Food Pantry open, the transformation of the Hall, and the Community Library ready for operation. Thank you to all who have worked so tirelessly to make those places available and decorate them. And the former Boys' Brigade store will soon be cleared allowing more space to be available for use in new ways.

For we are joyful that we are part of the body of Christ, may we always offer a safe place of welcome to those who feel disconnected through all that we are able to offer. May anyone who come to us or we invite, feel part of the body of our church family.

God bless.

Patrick

From our Circuit Superintendent Minister.

Dear Friends,

October is the time for counting. I sit at my office window and count the pink footed geese flying over the house. You normally hear them before you see them. Their purposeful V's which reduce wind resistance for the travelling birds is as much a part of the heralding of autumn in Southport



As are the shortening days and falling leaves. They know where they have come from, and they know where they are heading. It is one of life's miracles that they make this amazing flight every year from Greenland and Iceland to winter here. It is an amazing sight.

Every year in the Methodist Church we do something called the October Count. We look at the numbers attending worship, look at membership figures and generally take a snapshot of the life of the church. We also fill in property and finance schedules which all contribute to our understanding of church and circuit life. I know that figures cannot tell us everything, but they help us paint a picture of the health of the churches.

The Circuit Churches have also been asked to conduct a Church Review looking at their mission and ministry and discerning what God is saying to us, which will feed into the Church review.

The pink footed geese, which are part of our Circuit logo, have learnt that travelling together helps them travel further. There is an African proverb that says 'If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.' The pink footed geese have also learnt to honk to give

From our Superintendent Minister (continued)

encouragement to one another.

We want people who are passionate about sharing the gospel, people who are committed to exploring what God is calling ‘the people called Methodists’ to be and do so that we can be a transforming presence here in Southport to be part of the Circuit Review. Is it you?

A meeting held at St Francis of Assisi called us to refocus our resources and energies away from some activities which have served their time. This has on the table for a long time – since the 1970’s! The challenge is ‘if not now, then when?’

Our statistics paint a depressing picture but we know that we are stronger when we travel together. Let us hear you honk!

Marie-Anne

Slightly adapted – taken from Circuit News October 2021 copies available in the Vestibule.



Honk !

Honk !

Honk !

OUR OUTREACH WORKER – Sally Eyes.

As Covid restrictions are lifting my role as outreach worker is growing. As well as Take Time Christian Meditation, Bereavement Journey Courses, I have overseen the commencement of the Food Pantry. (*Referred to later in the Link*).

Take Time Christian Meditation sessions will resume on Zoom beginning on Tuesday, 9th November, 2021 – in the evening. Everyone welcome.

The Bereavement Journey course has been well attended by people of faith and none. My thanks go to the team of listeners who play a vital role in these sessions. The next course will start in January 2022. Look out for the information and spread the word to anyone you're in contact with who may be struggling with the effects of loss in their lives who may benefit from these small group video based bereavement sessions .

Please note the course venue changes for each new course so that the word is spread throughout the town.

Please contact Sally Eyes on 07743660155 or by email to sally.eyes@southportmethodist.org for further details of any of the above.

May I wish you every blessing for the Autumn months to you all.

Stay safe and well.

Sally

FROM OUR SENIOR STEWARD – Pamela Christopher

Over the last 18 months, with all the restrictions that have been in place, I am sure many of you will, like me, have used some of the time to have a good clear out at home. This can sometimes be difficult, especially when it comes to items which have been passed down through families, sometimes for several generations. I have found that asking my children if they would wish to keep certain items helps considerably in the decision making.

Over that last few months we have been doing a space audit at church. We have been assessing the space we have and questioning whether it is being put to the best use. As most of you will know by now the small lounge off the New Room has been converted into a stock room for the Food Pantry. It is good to see what was once a rather dingy and cluttered room transformed into a space which will help us to truly serve some of the more vulnerable members of our community.

This is also the time to ask ourselves if we really need the items we are storing in our buildings. Do we sometimes keep items because of the ways in which they have been acquired?

It is not just material possessions which are passed down through generations however. We can unfortunately do nothing about inherited features! But sadly we also inherit prejudices which have been passed down through parents, grandparents and beyond. These can sometimes be quite trivial, dislike of certain foods for example, or a particular flower. We can judge others by how they dress, or the music they listen to, or the TV programmes they watch. If we look back we can often trace these back to views passed on to us from friends and relatives in the past.

God created us in his own image and loves us all equally. He has no prejudices and asks of us that we love one another.

The title of this year's prayer handbook is 'All are Welcome'. Can we truly examine ourselves, throw out all our prejudices and say yes, you are welcome, whatever your ethnicity, faith, sexual orientation or political views? Let our church be a place too, where everyone feels able to speak out without fear of condemnation, about who they really are.

God bless you all,

Pamela Christopher

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

WEDDINGS

Friday, 6th August, 2021.

Elizabeth Bishop to Thomas Fitton
(Elizabeth daughter of Terry (a former
member of our BB Company) &Debbie Bishop.



Saturday, 4th September, 2021.

Daniel Hardiman to Suzy Egbretus.
Daniel son of Stephen (Circuit Steward and member at Victoria
Methodist) and the late Valerie Hardiman.

Congratulations and best wishes, to both couples on their marriage,
and for their future happiness.

FUNERALS

Since the publication of the Easter Link it is with sadness that we have to
report the passing of our Members and much loved
friends.

Ken Hooton died on Thursday, 20th May 2021.

Ken, from an early age, attended Liverpool Road.
He was a past member of the BB Company, Our
Junior Church Superintendent, Choir member and a
well -respected Local Preacher within the Southport Circuit and beyond.



A Service of Thanksgiving for Ken's life was held on 9th October, 2021,
in Church. The Service was conducted by Rev'd. Patrick Evans and
Rev'd. Martin Abrams with contributions from Ken's Family. Following the
service Family and many Friends gathered in the schoolrooms for
refreshments and to remember and celebrate Ken's life.

Church Family News (continued).

Funerals.

John Alexander died on Saturday, 5th June, 2021 .

Although not a Church Member John, husband of Pat and father of Joanne and Stewart, was most supportive of their involvement in our church.

John laid and maintained the garden/grassed areas of our church in the 1980's, which Stewart now maintains on a regular basis.

Phil Jackson died on Monday, 7th June, 2021. Husband of the late Sandra and proud parents of Chris and Leslie. Both Phil and Sandra were Church Members and regular in attendance up to the times of their passing.

Margaret Fisher died on Thursday, 24th June, 2021, following a short spell in hospital. Margaret was most regular in her attendance and took a great interest in Methodists Women's Work and that our Young People within the Church. A member of Wesley Guild, Margaret often played the piano for the devotions at Guild Meetings.

James Frederick Keep died on Wednesday, 25th August, 2021.

Father of Eileen and Helen. Jim, although not a Church member, attended Facets prior to moving into MHA Connell Court in the last couple of years of his life. He had just celebrated his 101st birthday on the 26th July. Following cremation Jim's family and friends gathered in the schoolrooms to remember and celebrate his long life.

Our love, prayers and sympathies go to the families in their recent sad losses.

JUNIOR CHURCH

Since Covid lockdown eased our small group of youngsters have met regularly .Occasionally the group can be doubled or even greater when visiting children come to our church with their parents or special event and of course they are always given a warm welcome. After the children s address and second hymn the youngsters enthusiastically make their way into the schoolrooms were they enjoy activities and/or stories from Sylvia, Vicky, Karen and Stephen.



Joan Upton

Superintendent

MESSY CHURCH



For almost the last eighteen months we have been unable to meet for Messy Church.

Once the lockdown legal restrictions were eased/lifted we have been unable to restart due to the lack of helpers.

However, there is a possibility of combining with other Church Messy Groups within our Circuit.

We thank you for your past support and would appreciate your prayers that a positive outcome may result.

Antone Lindsay

Leader

PROPERTY MATTERS

During 'lockdown' an eye has been kept on our premises. The Toilets and all Taps have been flushed/ran regularly in order to avoid Legionella.



Other works have also been carried out or overseen by Property Committee members – Schoolroom corridor floorcovering replacing vinyl tiles, Waste bin next to Sandon Road bench fitted, Replacement Urinals in Gents toilets; Disposal of unused chairs and other items; Beginners Room cleared to accommodate The Birkdale Community Hub & Library; Repainting and/or oiling of external doors and gates; The internal decoration of Schoolrooms' Large Hall; cleaning the upstairs (choir) vestry and the Large Kitchen ready for use after Lockdown.

A new replacement 'fridge has been purchased for the New Room kitchen and the former Church Office and Lounge converted in readiness for the Food Pantry.

Now that lockdown restrictions are easing and we are slowly getting back to worship and our weekly meetings ALL users of the premises need to play their part by cleaning rooms after use, replacing furniture to the correct places, cleaning after use kitchen floors, work surfaces and crockery, and in particular, turning off lights and securing the premises.

There are still other tasks to be undertaken and if you can give a couple of hours on Monday mornings it would be most encouraging to our 'Monday Morning Maintenance team'.

Geoff France

THE BOYS' BRIGADE

As most of you are now probably aware we have closed the doors on The Boys' Brigade associated with Liverpool Road. It was a very difficult decision, to make but with dwindling numbers it made it harder each week, to think of new ideas to promote the work of The Boys' Brigade.



We would like to thank all Boys who over the years have given us amusement, pride and loyalty, as they have strived to uphold the name of The Boys' Brigade in all we did, from drill to football, from camps to Christian service. We thank you for all the memories we have.

Pete and I would like to thank ALL officers who have given the Boys the assistance to create those memories and friendships, and to learn new skills during their time in the company. With grateful thanks for mentoring Pete and I on our journey through the life of The Boys' Brigade.

We would also like to thank the congregation for their support over the years, whether it be for *Boys' Brigade Week*, attending our many displays, or for their prayerful support over the years, it has been much appreciated.

We would also like to thank Patrick for the service on the 10th October. It made our decision feel easier, and the right one, as we had been having doubts about letting people down. Pete and I would also like to thank the congregation for our gifts and cards which we feel humbled to receive, but they were much appreciated

God Bless you all

Pete and Janet Oldham

BROWNIES

63rd Southport Brownie unit

It has been a great start to the new term at brownies. We are thoroughly enjoying being back to face to face meetings at the church.



The girls have been busy engaging in various activities over the past few weeks, most of the girls have now made their brownie promise.

This term we have been focusing on team building activities and travelling back in time in the run up to our brownie units 80th Birthday celebration, of which we are going to be celebrating with a 1940's themed party filled with traditional foods and games.

Due to the recent intake of new girls we are looking for a new helper to join our unit a regular basis.

If you are interested, please contact Brown Owl.

Must be over 18 years old.

Amanda Turner

Amanda Turner
Brown Owl – 07366393005

Natalie Schofield

Natalie Schofield
Snowy Owl - 07715132377

CAMEO

Sadly our numbers have fallen so much that we can no longer invite speakers. We held our most recent meeting on Wednesday, September 15th with just 5 attendees, when we reluctantly decided that future venues won't include church premises.



We will meet at 'The Learning Rooms' on Wednesday, 6th October from 2:15pm to 3:30pm when we'll identify future venues and discuss where to donate our remaining funds. These venues may include members' homes or the cafés of Birkdale Village.

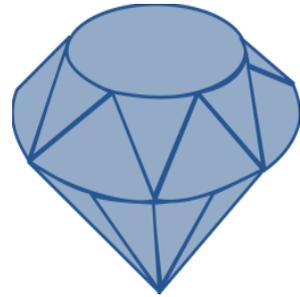
We remain open to new members and welcome Julie Holland to our ranks this autumn. This brings our total membership to 12.

Although we won't be meeting on church premises any longer, we wish to maintain our connection to Liverpool Road as we continue to support its mission.

Hilary Barrass

FACETS

Following lockdown Facets organized a coffee morning in July which was well attended (in fact more persons than were expected).



It was suggested that we commence the Autumn session with a meal, this received a very positive response.

A further coffee morning was held in August with a smaller number attending but still a good response and again enjoyed by all.

Enrolment took place in early September with a smaller number attending but each group had enough to proceed. It is usual for more persons come on the first meeting and enrol then. There were several persons enrolling for the first time.

The reunion meal on 14th September was well attended with over 40 persons present enjoying a meal of either Coq au vin or Seafood pie.

Facets is still seeking a Deputy Coordinator. Any offers!!

We look forward to a lively session when classes begin on September 21st.

Join us for fun, fellowship, education and relaxation.
Everybody is welcome

Brian Simmons
Co-ordinator

GIRLS' BRIGADE

At the beginning of September, after eighteen months of no Brigade, we dipped our toes into the water and held our first meeting. We were rewarded with half a dozen girls coming onto the grassed area for an evening of fun and games.

We now have ten girls meeting on a Tuesday evening from 6.15p.m. until 7.30 p.m. and we are delighted.



Our Enrolment Service was led by 'Tabz' on the 26th September, so our first session has begun on a high note.

Thanks to Sylvia and Vicky for their enthusiasm to get things up and running, providing girls with a safe space to play, learn life skills and more about Jesus with stories and crafts.

Sadly our meetings have resumed without our friend and colleague June Chaplow, who was a leader in our Company for many years. She was always enthusiastic when working and playing games with the girls, and loved going to camp. She became Captain of the Company and, when she retired, became Vice President of the District. We all miss her smile and sense of fun.

Finally, we acknowledge the closing of the 7th Southport Boys Brigade Company. The Leaders and helpers that made the Company what it was over many years. Thank you all for your friendship and tireless service so freely given.

Thank you to all our friends at Liverpool Road for your support and most of all, your prayers.

Jayne Wilcox
GB Leader

RAMBLING CLUB



We recommenced our coach trips eventually on 30th July after the government had extended the lockdown.

Our first trip was to Bowness, we had 2 coaches as we kept numbers down for the first walk till everybody got to grips with coming out of lockdown, The walkers did

a 7.5 mile walk taking in Moss Eccles tarn having gone over on the car ferry, and we walked back down the far side of Windermere. The rest of the group had a wander round Bowness or got the bus to Grasmere.

The second trip was to Adenham where walkers met up with Mike Brookfield and he gave us a guided tour of his village. We went in Mike's local church that has 14 mice carved by the Mouse man, scattered round the church for us to find. We then walked down the river to Ilkley. Betty gave a guided tour of Ilkley, to all those who wanted it, before they went shopping.

Our next trip is on 16th October and is being led by our own Ken Revill and David Wall. The walkers are going to Gisburn and non-walkers to Skipton. The coach at present is fully booked with 57 people.

Our trip on the 20th November is to York where you can shop at the designer outlet, get the Park and Ride, where you can go to Christmas markets or visit a museum. Please feel free to book on the coach if you would like to go

We are looking forward to a full year of walks next year.

Janet Oldham

GUILD

At the time of writing this, we will have had a meeting to discuss the future of Guild, hopefully with some new ideas to fit in with the Churches way forward..



During lockdown we have kept in touch by phone and email. It is good to be back in Church and, at last, we can have a chat in the carpark!

It was with great sadness we received news of the death of Margaret Fisher who was a regular member of Guild and, for a short time, she was our pianist. After her hospital stay a few years earlier she was amazing, with her determination to carry on as usual.

We will be missing a few of our members; due to death, moving to rest homes or moving away. We will be remembering these people and their relatives as we meet together.

Eileen Fyles



Following the future of Guild Meetings it was

decided that our Guild Meetings on Tuesday

Evenings would commence at

THE FOOD PANTRY

The Food Pantry is another project/service on our premises. We welcome all those in managing the Food Pantry in whatever capacity and offer our prayerful support.



The Food Pantry is now up and running, the shelves well stocked and volunteers in place.

A large donation of goods from Farnborough Rd Infant School resulting from their harvest assembly. was been received with grateful thanks

The following items will enhance our stocks running up to Christmas if you feel able to donate: –

Toilet rolls

Coffee

Confectionery (biscuits, wrapped cakes, sweets).

Christmas chocolates

Fruit juice

Fruit squash

Tinned ham

Nappies

Baby foods

Please contact Sally Eyes on 07743660155 or by email to sally.eyes@southportmethodist.org for further details of the above.

Volunteers–always a welcome gift!

Sally Eyes

BIRKDALE COMMUNITY HUB AND LIBRARY

As part of us 'opening up' our premises we welcome The Birkdale Community Hub and Library.



Over the summer the Beginners Room were the main Library is situated has been repainted and carpeted, shelving has been installed, books catalogued and arranged, by a small group of volunteers and the Library is almost ready to receive members.

The Library will be officially opened on Monday, 1st November, 2021.

Opening Times

Monday afternoons 1.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m.

Wednesday mornings 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.

Friday mornings 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.

Do support this new venture.

ALL are welcome to join and borrow books.

There are also books in The New Room (Front Hall). These books can be taken, and kept if you are interested in a particular book. From time to time these books will be re-stocked.

Tim Hall (Co-Manager).

Where are they now?

In past issues of the Link reference was made to some of our young people going off to University.

Emily Hagan is continuing with her Sports Coaching Course at Edge Hill University.



Lucy Neilson has just started at Leicester University reading **Medicine**.

Rachel Neilson is reading Criminology at Nottingham Trent University..



*Rachel & Lucy are Katherine Neilson's daughters
Colin & Eileen Fyles' Grand-daughters).*



Jeremy Jackson is getting towards the end of his course at Leicester University reading **Architecture**.

Sam Morgan, following course in IT, at Edge Hill University, Sam is now living and working at a 5* hotel on the Isle of Skye, Scotland.



Daniel Wilcox is studying Political Science and Economics at Albany University in U.S.A .He is nearing the completion of his four year course.

B.B. MEMORIES

Following the Sunday Morning Service and closing of the 7th Southport Company The Boys' Brigade I have jotted down my memories of the B.B. I started to write them down. However in all honesty, there are too many, so I've decided to use the memories and experiences that has influenced me in later life.

I joined the Anchor Boys in 1991 as a 6-year-old (My cousin Jonathon joined the Beavers later that year, so I think it's safe to say that he was my Grandad's (Nevil Kinsman) "Favourite Grandson" from that moment on. I was greeted by three individuals of note, Mark Taylor, John Gaffney and Phil Halsall. I remember the Anchor boys were dodging sponge balls being launched at them by John and Phil.

I was a member of the 7th Southport BB right up until the day I joined the Royal Navy in 2003. On Sunday, 14th September it was Church Parade and at 7.00 a.m. on Monday, I was on the train to Plymouth starting my naval career. (*Mum said I was going to Butlin's, but 18 years on, I've still to see one Redcoat !*). The memories are endless!

The Annual BB Display's included drill demonstrations, various sketches acted out (Bohemian Rhapsody by the D of E group was my favourite), and Gymnastics displays to name a few.

P.E & Sports on Thursday evenings, involved football, quick cricket, and kick ball were played out. The stage panels got their fair share of whacks). Friday evenings where The Junior Section raised the flag before devotions, inspection and then various activities craft, singing and games. At eleven years of age and promoted to the Company Section Activities such Squad Drill, Photography, Expedition ,Band practice and Chess to name a few of the activities offered by the leaders of the Company. I took up the Bugle, and obviously mum was pleased. My pal, Carl Radley took a drum., so

B.B. Memories (continued)

I think Graham and Doreen Iddon pulled the short straw on that one. After classes, there was recreational activities that lasted until 10 p.m. We played Table Tennis, Pool, Football or anything we could find in the B.B. room.

I have fond memories of Table Tennis. I wanted to beat Chris Snelson so badly, that a former BB member, Eddie Weights, offered to give me Table Tennis lessons. His home had a basement with a Table Tennis Table in it, and a machine that fired ping-pong balls at you. Eddie made me my own paddle, but he put too much glue on the rubber, as it took months to get the hang on how much bounce it produced. I never did beat Chris Snelson in the end.

Eddie Weights' other hobby was building remote control cars that went faster than normal cars.

I recall the various competitions we took part in – all around the country. B.B National Competitions = Table tennis (obviously), Chess, Badminton, Masterteam (Quiz) and the annual Ten Pin Bowling Championships at Bedford.. We went bowling once a month at Switch Island, the Company teams were picked on from our performances.

The Summer months produced great memories, such as Man hunt by the Round Hill on Waterloo Road, Cycle trips, the highlights being fantastic BB Camps. The Officers banging metal pans to get us up in the morning, camp squad inspections, followed by breakfast and morning devotions.

I remember one year the devotions were on religious sports based videos. Personalities such as Chris Akabusi, and others who spoke about how their faith has influenced them in life. Camp Days out to places such as Eastbourne Pier, Scarborough Sea fishing trips, Speed boat rides, Flamingo Land, Paignton Outdoor Water park These I really enjoyed.

B.B. Memories (continued)

The D of E award scheme, had too many memories to list. On my Bronze Expedition, we were chased off by an intrigued cow! My Silver expedition, because of 'foot and mouth disease', resulted in us walking down Formby beach and camping outside the church.

The Gold Award, Carl Radley and I failed the first time due to contracting D and V after drinking water from a stream. However I eventually gained the Gold award and went to St James's Palace with Mum. I met up with her in London as I was coming from Portsmouth. My Commanding Officer, now Commodore Steve Danton, asked me to give Prince Phillip a message, *"Prince Philip still owes him a Tenner"*.

I will conclude with how the BB has influenced me over the years.

In the Royal Navy, we have core values, called "C2DRIL". This stands for **Courage; Commitment; Discipline; Respect; Integrity and Loyalty.**

These are values, I believe, he BB taught me long before I started my Navy Career. From inspections at BB Camp, teaching me uniformity to drill practice that taught me the fundamentals of marching before my Phase 1 Training. Respect for one another, which is the most important value in the service, Integrity and the ability to make the right decisions, Loyalty to the BB and all its values, and the drive and commitment to achieve what you want to achieve.

Those who influenced me in the BB include :-

Jim Lloyd; Ken Grundy; Graham Iddon; Mike Sale; Ian Utterson;
Peter Oldham; Janet Oldham; Mark Taylor; John Gaffney; Philip Halsall;
Clifford Thomas and Christopher Snelson

Graeme Murdoch
Former Member 1991 to 2003

