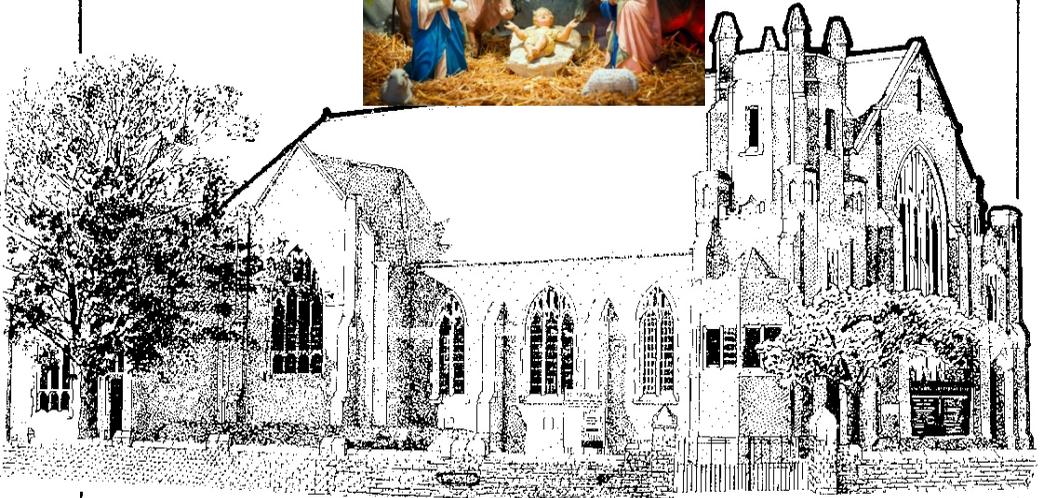




The LINK



NEWS FROM
LIVERPOOL ROAD
METHODIST CHURCH



FROM OUR MINISTER – Rev Patrick Evans.

Dear Friends,

John, Chapter 1, Verse 14.

*“The Word became flesh and made
His dwelling among us.”
(NIV Translation)*

*“The Word became flesh and blood,
and moved into the neighbourhood.”
(The Message Translation)*



Of all the Bible verses we have at Christmas, I think the one that I find most significant is the one above. The NIV and Message translations both bring to life the reality of the incarnation. A dwelling is defined as a place where someone lives, and so the NIV version is saying he lived among us.

‘Us’ can mean the whole of humankind, in that Jesus came and lived on planet earth.

‘Us’ can also mean that Jesus lived among the people and the landscape of those that the passage was written for. This later perception of ‘us’ is perhaps echoed in the Message translation when it says he “moved into the neighborhood”.

How fortunate were the people who encountered Jesus for real. I wonder what it was like for those who came to Joseph’s workshop seeing the young Jesus; how did they interact with him and vice versa?

Then Jesus' ministry commences and he brings the Good News to the lives of those he encountered.

How would it have been if Jesus moved into our neighbourhood?

Well in many ways he has through his church.

At Christmas time we celebrate the "Good News" of the birth of Jesus and the gospel message and teachings of Jesus. As Christians we are witnesses to the Good News of Jesus. As a Church you have been part of this Good News over the decades and continue to be so in so many ways.

It has been a challenge for some groups to restart, although through the commitment of so many, groups such as Facets, the Girls' Brigade, the Walking Group, and we have seen new initiatives start such as The Food Pantry.

We also witness as individual Christians when we bring joy, hope, peace and love to our neighbourhood.

May God bless you as witnesses to the Good News of the Gospel.

Patrick



Christmas Services at Liverpool Road & Ainsdale

Sunday,	19th December, 2021.	10.45 a.m.	Carol Service
Friday,	24th December, 2021.	11.30 p.m.	Christmas Eve.
<u>At Ainsdale Methodist Church</u>			
Saturday,	25th December, 2021.	10.45 a.m.	Christmas Day
Sunday,	26th December, 2021.	10.45 a.m.	Boxing Day
<u>By ZOOM.</u>			

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

CHRISTENINGS

Sunday, 31st October, 2021.

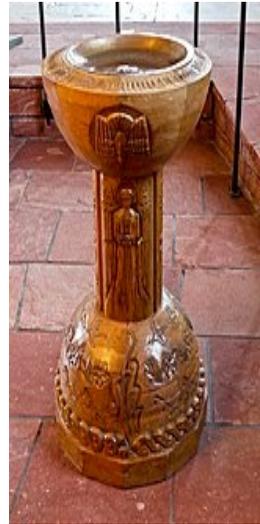
**Sophie and Lucy, Twin daughters of
Gary and Lisa Flanagan (nee Flanagan)
Granddaughters of Ray and Pamela Flanagan.**

‘Two delightful bundles of joy who lit up the occasion on their special day’

Sunday, 19th December, 2021.

**Avalynn Rose, daughter of
David and Jenny Kennedy (nee Eyes)
Granddaughter of Sally Eyes.**

‘Avalynn Rose, hopefully- restrictions permitted, has come all the way from Budapest, Hungary to celebrate her special day with Mum, Dad and to meet up with her Grandparents.



OTHER NEWS – Birkdale Community Hub and Library.

The Birkdale Community Hub and Library is up and running and situated in what was The Beginners’ Room. All are welcome to Join the Library as members and take advantage of the facilities offered both at our premises & the Station Masters House at Birkdale Station.

We have no parking problems and a good selection of books!

Opening times are:- Monday Afternoon 1p.m. to 4p.m.

Wednesday Morning 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

and Friday Morning 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Christmas & New Year closure – December 23rd to January 4th, 2022.

JUNIOR CHURCH

At present in Junior Church we have 2 to 7 children regularly attending.

After a few minutes of morning service we resume in the schoolrooms.



We start our weekly sessions with 'News time', followed by stories and activities.

Over the past few weeks we have been looking at the life of David and we are now currently thinking about the Birth of Jesus.

All have fun doing activities linked to the stories we have heard each week.

We really miss Lily who was a good friend in Junior Church as well as in Church, where she has occasionally taken part in the services – children's addresses (always willing to volunteer and go to the front) and reading lessons.

Joan Upton

Superintendent

A piece of bacon and an egg in a frying pan – 'Singing'

Bacon: "Don't go 'bacon' my heart!"

Breaking ?

Egg: "I couldn't if I 'fried'!"

Tried ?

(I.C)

PROPERTY MATTERS

Since we have finished painting the Large Hall we have carried out a few minor tasks around the Property.



Geoff assisted by Graham have been bringing doors up to Fire Regulations Both the Large Hall kitchen doors are now up to the required standard and at present they are working on the New Room kitchen door – all this being carried out in between users of the rooms and in line with the last quinquennial inspection.. Andy, Jim and Graham replaced the blinds in the large hall following the painting. Andy has replaced and fitted a carpet on the stage

Jim removed some vegetation in the outside compound which had taken root during the lockdown closure. It is proposed to put a hard-standing in this area which is useful as a store for materials –sand, flags, copings, &c. to be used in future. Ken has finished painting the last door in the Large Hall/Corridor and has repainted the New Room entrance porch ceiling.

The large Blue Roll paper holders had come adrift from the kitchen and refixed.as well as all stainless steel working surfaces cleaned following lockdown.

Following the recent high winds some of the polycarbonate window coverings ended up on the carpark and yard between the church and schools. These are to be replaced in the near future.

As more users are meeting in our halls it is important that we replace tables and chairs accordingly. Please stack chairs between the areas marked and as stated on the small labels. This is to prevent accidents from chairs stacked too high. It also gives a good impression to future users viewing and maybe interested in hiring our rooms!

Geoff France

From The J.M.A. Collectors.

A big thank you to all the people who have collected over £383.00 these past two years for J.M.A. (Junior Missions for All).



Many thanks are also extended to the adult relatives, friends and church members who have been so generous with their support and contributions.

We are always looking for adults in the church who would be prepared to support these children and young people with a small, regular amount. This could be given weekly, monthly or a few times a year.

If there are any members of the congregation, young or old, who would like to collect for the J.M.A. let Vicky McCaffrey or Karen Taylor know and they will be happy to provide a collecting box.

Last Year, J.M.A. collectors raised in excess of £97,000.00. Of this, 80% went to the World Mission Fund to help partner churches in Africa, Europe, Latin America, the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific. The other 20% supported Methodist mission projects across the U.K.

The following received their Annual badges and Certificates in recognition of their efforts:-

Joanne Taberner; The Wilcox Family; Jack Taylor; Summer Taylor;
Glenna Warner, The Lindsay Family and Lily Roberts.

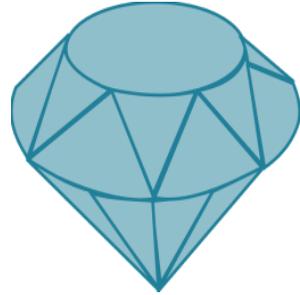
They were all applauded for their sterling efforts and for being part of Home and World mission.

A Display of badges, certificates and magazines that collectors receive were exhibited at the front of Church.

Sylvia Taylor

FACETS

Facets has progressed well during the Autumn term. New people have been arriving each week to enroll, keeping Ken Grundy busy writing out registration receipts.



A coffee morning was held at half term which was well attended and £195 raised for Shoebox Express, a charity alongside the Annual Shoebox Appeal. Molly Wright also sold 75 shoeboxes. (Distributed by Inter Aid).

Our Christmas Meal will be held on 7th December, 2021. After the meal we shall be entertained by Rob Mason with a talk entitled "Life is what you make it"

Enrolment for the Spring Term will be on 4th January, 2022 with classes commencing on 11th January, 2022.

In the New Year classes will commence at the later time of 09.30a.m. If you have a Tuesday to spare we would be very pleased to welcome you.

Brian Simmons

Co-ordinator

Gorgeous Blonde lady and Handsome man enjoying a meal.

Lady: "How many children have you got?"

Man: "I've got one that's nearly two."

Lady: "I may be blonde, but I know how many one is!"

GIRLS' BRIGADE

We continue to grow in numbers, 13 girls are now on the register.

Each week, however, due to the current situation, the group varies in size, owing to family bubbles, etc.

This session we have been looking at the Fruits of the Spirit

love; joy; peace; kindness; goodness; faithfulness ; gentleness and self-control-all relevant attributes to have a knowledge of in today's world.

On a recent Tuesday, we decorated cakes with a Christmas theme and made tree decorations.

By the time you read this, we will have enjoyed our Christmas party and broken-up for the Christmas and New Year period..

We recommence on Tuesday, 11th January, 2022.

May we wish you all a Healthy and Peaceful Christmas and New Year.

Jayne Wilcox
Leader

*I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old, familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet
The words repeat
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!*

*H. W. Longfellow
From Christmas Bells (1864)*



RAMBLING CLUB

The Rambling Club had a successful trip to Gisburn and Skipton in October. The non-walkers were fortunate to meet up with Eric Greaves in Skipton whilst the walkers had a very 'stylish' walk. We had a number of stiles to get over, each one had its own drama, whether it was mud, trees or just wobbly. Trying to get 29 people over one small stile was no mean feat.



Our November trip to York went really well, although we had to fill the coach with people from the USA. All that came on it the trip appeared to enjoy the day, although their pockets were lighter at the end of it!

The next event is our annual meal at the Old Links Golf Club on Friday, February 4th, 2022, when we will discuss the next year's programme.

Anyone wishing to join our group please get in touch with Janet or Peter Oldham or Ken Revill for further details.

Happy Christmas to all and a very healthy New Year.

Stay safe.

Janet Oldham.

TRIVIA.

In the queue at the local café the ramblers were visiting, there is one person standing in front of two others, there is another person standing in between two others and there is another person standing behind two others. How few people can there be? (Answer page 14)

WESLEY GUILD



A meeting of Guild members early in September voted to carry on with Guild. We agreed to re-start on Tuesday, 12th October, 2021 with a devotional evening, led by Peter Lyth. In the weeks following Mike McKenna spoke about his work with Paralympic athletes; Brian Simmons led a social evening; Craig Horan talked about his time as a Christian working in Saudi Arabia.

Our Minister, Patrick shared with us his Sabbatical journey and Derek Taberner led a devotional the following week. John Forshaw, from Bescar Lane Church, informed us about outreach in Scarisbrick working alongside the Vicar from St. Marks; Sally Eyes informed us of the Food Pantry's progress to date; Brian Simmons led a Christmas Praise evening and we will finish, for Christmas, with a social evening led by Bernard Capper.

Before Christmas many of us go out for more than one festive meal, so we decided, a few years ago, to enjoy a Guild meal in the New Year. This year we are going to Dolce Vita in January 2022, for lunch.

We have been surprised by the attendances. Sadly, we have lost a few faithful members who don't like coming out on dark nights. However, for a couple of weeks we had low numbers, but the weeks following we have averaged about eighteen.

We are delighted Angela Thompson has joined us and she has played the piano for our hymns/songs. This has improved the singing considerably.

If you are at a loose end any Tuesday evening you are very welcome to join us either every week or just occasionally.

We start again on Tuesday, 11th January, 2022 at 7.30 pm.

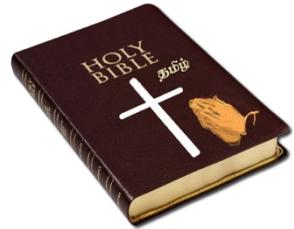
We hope you all have a very happy and healthy Christmas and New Year.

Eileen Fyles

Quote: *'Christmas is love in action'*

THE 'BIG STORY' BIBLE SOCIETY – BIBLE COURSE

Due to previous success, we are running the Bible Course again at Liverpool Road, commencing on Wednesday, 12th January, 2022, starting at 2.15 p.m.



The eight session course explores the big picture of the Bible storyline from Genesis to Revelation. Each session is presented by DVD and is backed up by an interactive course handbook.

The course is constructed and presented in such a way as to help those who are new to the Bible, are roughly familiar with the Bible, or want to go deeper.

It is not too late to book into the course, but as we need to purchase the course handbooks.

Please let us know by the 31st December, 2021 at the latest.

Contact Sally Eyes (07743660155) or Ken Revill (01704 567576)

“Ho, Ho, Ho !”

PIZZAS

What is Santa’s favourite Pizza?

One that’s deep pan, crisp and even!

PARTIES

Why would you invite a mushroom to a Christmas party?

Because he’s a ‘fun guy’ to be with !

FOOD PANTRY

We now house The Birkdale Food Pantry which operates on a Wednesday morning, each week, between 9.30 a.m. and 11.30 a.m.

An increasing number of families in the area are benefitting from a family sized shop at a much reduced price.



We have a committed team of volunteers who enjoyed a lunch together on December 1st, 2021, supporting our neighbours at the Four Seasons café.

The Mercedes garage are supporting The Pantry as their chosen charity for the month, and a Halsall farmer has offered us produce for which we are most grateful.

The Pantry is under the umbrella of Compassion Acts (a Southport Charity based at The Victoria Centre (formerly Victoria Methodist Church) on Sussex Road. (Post code PR8 6DQ). The centre is open daily between 10.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m. and welcome volunteering for all tasks, helping to tackle local food poverty.

Sally Eyes

(Outreach Worker)

TRIVIA. *Patrick picked one peach more than Peter. Pauline picked one peach more than Pippa. Patrick and Peter picked 10 more peaches than Pauline and Pippa. Patrick, Peter, Pauline and Pippa picked 60 peaches. How many peaches did Patrick pick? (Answer Page 14)*

MY MUM

I'm losing my Mum to dementia,
It's stripping parts of my mother away,
"How old are your children?" She says.
You answer in full the first time,
Hoping the answer remains,
She straightens dad's hair and sticks out her tongue,
"How old are your children?" again,
You shorten the answer to help her,
But already can feel the strain.

I'm losing my mum to dementia,
It's taking the best bits of her brain,
Catch phrases are something familiar
She'll say them again and again.
"How some people fit and some people don't"
We could all join with the refrain,
Conversations with bemused strangers,
Embarrassment and almost ashamed,
You quietly try to explain.

I'm losing my love to dementia,
"How old are your children?"
You sigh and repeat,
One word answer this time.
Short and sweet,
"How old are your children?"

Inside you scream,
Like Groundhog Day,
A never-ending bad dream,
"How old are your.....?"
"Twelve and Fifteen"
Inside you scream,
"How old.....?"
"In their teens

(Cont'd over)

My Mum (cont'd)

I'm losing my love to the demons,
They're ripping black holes in her mind,
Where used to be stored names of birds, plants and trees,
Now she doesn't know how to make a cup of tea,
"I was a bossy teacher a long time ago!"
"Yes Mum, you told us, we already know"
Your neck muscles tighten,
What's the point? She won't remember,
Is it Spring or nearly December?

I'm losing my Mum to disaster,
Yes, I've said it again, one more time,
The worry that this is hereditary,
I wish I'd appreciated her sooner,
Her knowledge, her patience, be kind,
She threatens to smack my behind.

I'm losing my Mum to destruction,
It crept on our family unseen,
This dreadful, disgusting, demolishing disabling disease.

Mrs. Sarah Osgerby (nee Greaves)

TRIVIA ANSWERS

p. 9. Café Queue few people THREE

p.12 Patrick picked EIGHTEEN peaches

For all of us to see out 2021 and let in 2022.

AULD LANG SYNE

Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
And never brought to mind?
Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
And auld lang syne?

Chorus. For auld lang syne, my dear,
For auld lang syne,
We'll tak a cup o'kindness yet,
For auld lang syne !

And surely ye'll be your pint- stowp,
And surely I'll be mine,
And we'll tak a cup o'kindness yet,
For auld lang syne!

We twa hae run about the braes,
And pou'd the gowans fine,
But we've wander'd monie a weary fit,
Sin auld lang syne.

We twa hae paid'd in the burn
Frae morning sun till dine,
But seas between us braid hae roar'd
Sin auld lang syne.

And there's a hand my trusty fiere,
And gie's a hand o thine,
And we'll tak a right guid-willie waught,
For auld lang syne.

Robert Burns

Auld lang syne=
old long since
stowp = tankard
pou'd the gowans=
pulled the daisies
fit = footstep
braid = broad
fiere = friend
guid-willie waught =
goodwill drink

