

The LINK

NEWS FROM
LIVERPOOL ROAD
METHODIST CHURCH



EASTER 2022

FROM OUR MINISTER – Rev. Patrick Evans



Dear Friends

The fast two years has taught us is that life never returns to what it was, rather it moves forward into a new order shaped by our experience. We have heard the phrase the “new normal” as we learn to live in the present, shaped by the past.

For those who were closest to Jesus, the Easter Story has echoes of this

Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying...Jesus said to her, “Mary.”She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (Which means “Teacher”) Jesus said, “Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: “I have seen the Lord!” And she told them that he had said these things to her.

(John, Chapter 20, verses 11a, 16-18)

Mary goes from a state of torrid grief, to one of confusion, thinking that the person she met outside the tomb was a gardener, to one of surprise at realizing it was in fact Jesus. He has risen! Her surprise must have taken days, weeks and longer to comprehend. For it

was not that the horrors of Good Friday had not happened, or that Jesus was fully human as he was before his murder, rather it was that he had been resurrected into a never before seen state. Mary had to get use to a new normal based on her experience of those days. She could not hold onto Jesus as she had previously done and as Jesus indicates she would want to do. Rather she had to come to terms that life was never going to revert back, for time had moved on. Nothing though could change what she witnessed that morning, resurrection had happened assuring us of life beyond death.

We worship a God of resurrection. In the midst of whatever we experience, may we too be witnesses to the power of resurrection.

God bless

Patrick

EASTER SERVICES

GOOD FRIDAY joining with St. John's, Birkdale, at 10.30 a.m

EASTER SUNDAY An invitation to join with Ainsdale at 8.15 a.m. for Communion followed by Easter Breakfast at 9.15 a.m.

EASTER CELEBRATION at Liverpool Road at 10.45 a.m

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS



FUNERALS

It is with great sadness that we have to report, since the Christmas Link 2021, the following funerals have taken place.

Clarice Tinlin died on Wednesday, 15th December, 2021.

Clarice died as she had lived (30th August 1919 – 15th December 2021), loving her God, this church and her large blended family. We will remember her bright smile, her elegance and the joy she brought into any room she entered. Clarice knew that she was going to the arms of her beloved Jesus and so her funeral service was a true celebration of her life, with contributions from the five generations of her family all of whom miss her now and always. A Service of Celebration of Clarice's life took place on 30th December, 2022.

Grace Roberts died on Tuesday, 11th January, 2022. She was an enduring member of Liverpool Road Methodist Church and also involved for many years in the Young Wives and Women's Fellowship groups. Grace was a Canadian by birth but took out British Citizenship once settled in the U.K. She and her husband, Arthur, had two children, Marjorie and David, who were both active in our churches youth activities. From the family home in Farnborough Road they moved to Darwin Court, Cambridge Road where Arthur died. Grace's health deteriorated and eventually she was cared for at Sutton Grange Care Home. Grace's funeral took place at Southport Crematorium on Wednesday, 26th January 2022

Clive Pownceby

Clive's Funeral was held at Liverpool Road Methodist Church on Wednesday, 2nd February, 2022, because of expected large numbers attending. Clive was an active member of Waterloo Methodist Church and was well known throughout the North West and beyond for his interest in Folk Music. For many years he fronted the Bothy Folk Club at the Blundell Arms Hotel, The Shelbourne and, following their closures, Park Golf Club. For many years he was involved in the Annual Folk Festivals held at Whitby, North Yorkshire.

Church Family News – Funerals (Cont'd).

Paul Matthews died on Tuesday, 1st February, 2022.

Paul, as a youngster, was a former member of our Boys' Brigade Company at Liverpool Road, as were his three older brothers. He served with Merseyside Police rising to the rank of Chief Inspector upon retirement.

Paul was a church member, regularly greeting us in the vestibule on Sunday mornings. He would willingly take part in services, taking the offertory or reading lessons. Paul would often call upon people who were sick or in need, either in person or on the 'phone, offering help if required. A service to celebrate Paul's life, followed by Private Cremation took place on Friday, 18th March, 2022.

Derek Sale died on Thursday, 3rd March, 2022.

Derek, by profession was a draughtsman and worked for BAE at their Wharton plant for many years up to his retirement.

Derek, prior to his passing, had been ill for some 18 months or so and was cared for in a local Nursing Home. Previous to his illness Derek had been a most regular and active member of Liverpool Road for many years.

He, and his late wife Barbara, would produce *'The Link'* and also Derek, for a number of years, would take bookings for church meetings and the outside users of our premises. He was a longstanding member of the Wesley Guild and for a number of years the Guild's Treasurer.

His cremation took place on Monday, 21st March, 2022 with Derek's family and friends in attendance.

Tom Lloyd although not a member of Liverpool Road worshipped regularly St. John's, Birkdale. Some eight years ago Tom joined our Tuesday Facets Meeting. He was an enthusiastic member of the now ceased Calligraphy Group and of late the Arts Class. He attended Facets up to a short time ago and following illness passed away in his 91st year

Tom Lloyd's funeral service took place at Liverpool Road Methodist Church on Monday, 21st March, 2022 followed by cremation at West Lancashire Crematoria.

Church Family News – Funerals (Cont'd)

Stanley Hagan died on Saturday, 19th March, 2022.

Stan had been unwell for the last couple of years and recently was cared for in a local Nursing Home. His main interest was gardening and he spent many hours tending his plants and lawn after work, and in his retirement. His other interest was drama and wherever his family lived he would be involved in the local drama groups. On his retirement from the Civil Service where he had served as Clerks to various Courts, up and down the country, he was awarded the Order of The British Empire. He was an active Church Member at Liverpool Road and often made his opinions known at Church Council, usually with a humorous turn of phrase.

A service of thanksgiving for Stan's life took place on Friday, 1st April, 2022, preceded by private cremation, which was attended by his family and many friends.

Our sympathy, our love and our prayers go to all the families at this time in their sad losses.

CONGRATULATIONS

Oliver Hagan on attaining his B.B. Queen's Badge.

The Queen's Badge is the highest award that can be gained by a boy member of The Boys' Brigade.

(See Page 10 – The Boys' Brigade)



Church Family News (Cont'd)

JULIE COLE – ‘Jewels!’



At the end of March our Church Cleaner, Mrs. Julie Cole resigned. Julie has served our church well, in her capacity as cleaner, for the past nine plus years, often doing over and above her contracted schedule .It will be difficult to replace her.

In 2020, Julie gained a Higher 2.1 BA Honors degree in Children, Young Person and Family Services and is now working full time in Social Services with vulnerable families in the Sefton and Merseyside area.

Due to family commitments – looking after her two teenage twin lads as well as caring for her elderly parents and her full time job Julie finds it difficult to fit everything in.

In her letter of resignation Julie wrote *‘I have really enjoyed the last nine years at church and have met some lovely people*. I wish the Church and all involved all my very best wishes’*. On behalf of the Church Members, congregation and other users, ‘Thank You Julie. We shall miss your happy disposition and wish you and yours all that is best for the future.

**She obviously means Jim, Graham, Geoff, Andy & Ken !*

The Letter ‘L’ is for Law

A Rich Lady returned home from a Charity Fundraising Event. She rang the bell for her footman and when he appeared she said, “Edward, take off my shoes,” and he did. Then she said, “Edward, take off my coat,” and he did. “Take off my dress,” and he did. “And now take off my underclothes,” and he did. “And now, Edward,” she said, “If you wish to remain in my service, you are never to wear any of my clothes again.”

FROM CHURCH COUNCIL

At our October 2021 meeting the main points to emerge were we discussed:

The shortfall in minister's pensions does need to be addressed but the proposed payment from our finance was £4000.00. That seemed too much to contribute at one time and John Attwater is looking at paying in annual instalments. The matter of same sex marriage would be discussed at a meeting in December (see later) We find it perverse that the circuit is stopping on-line services when the response is so good and there is a drive towards new forms of worship.

The December meeting to discuss same sex marriage ended in an indicative vote where many agreed with the concept although a significant minority were undecided / neutral. The Leadership Team were tasked with organising future meetings particularly as December was in the midst of winter and the Covid pandemic. That is not the best way to get an optimum attendance.

In January 2022 we discussed the way forward with our buildings. It emerged that a feasibility study can be financed outwith our church and we await this study with interest.

Our finances are still in a difficult place. Although we are likely to spend about £2000.00 less than budget, we are still using up our reserves because income is also falling and we will be at the minimum level in a few years. There is still time to do something and the action is with our leadership team.

Conversations with the local Church of England churches is complicated as they are searching for 2 ministers for the 3 churches. We are willing to talk with them but the initiative is with them.

In case you have missed it in the notices, Iona Worship is at 9.15 am most Thursday mornings in Church and Bible Study is at 7.00 pm in the New Room. All welcome

Our next Church Council is planned for 14th June in the Church. Anyone can attend but only council members may vote.

Andy Trimble

Church Council Secretary

PROPERTY MATTERS.

"I feel like I need a Human Resource Assistant !"

We continue to meet on Monday Mornings to carry out maintenance to our buildings and grounds.

We are short staffed and would welcome any volunteers to help regularly or short term. Our tasks include some of a mundane nature others may take a little longer. We try to keep the gardens under control, clearing grounds and /or buildings and in the recent past painting the schoolroom, which was a big job but saved our church finances a considerable sum. You would be most welcome if you could offer your services regularly or for short periods.



The recent storms caused some damage to both Church and the Trees on our property. Remedial work is taking place and claims made to our insurers which will recoup some of the costs.

Julie Cole, our Church Cleaner for the past 9+ years has tendered her resignation due to elderly family commitments. Our grateful thanks are extended to Julie for her contribution. We shall miss her cheerfulness.

Stuart Alexander has retired from active work– his business regularly maintained our grassed areas – so we shall need someone to carry out these works in future. Our thanks Stuart, for your efforts over these past years.

**Other work undertaken since the last Link report includes: –
New Room Kitchen door upgraded to satisfy fire prevention requirements;
Further painting and decoration; replacement of polycarbonate sheets on several windows around the Church; Linseed |Oil applied to external brickwork of Church; Testing of circuits and electrical equipment and replacement of new earth to the Lightning conductor.**

Thanks to all who help to keep our premises clean, tidy and in good condition.

Geoff France

JUNIOR CHURCH

Our small group of youngsters continue to meet each Sunday Morning in Church, often getting involved in the Preachers Children's Address before leaving for their own classes in the schoolrooms..



On Mothering Sunday they distributed small posies to the ladies in the congregation. They have also took part in the Lenten liturgy - most confidently reading the weeks relevant passage and placing the Purple cloth and Crown of Thorns on the Cross.

Young visitors, attending morning worship with their parents, are always most welcome to join with us on any Sunday.

Joan Upton
Superintendent

THANK YOU'S

Audrey Lloyd sends her thanks to everyone for their kind messages, concerns, flowers and help following her recent 'argument with the stairs'! I am a making steady progress and feeling better each day.

Michael Sale and Family would like to thank all those members of the church family who sent cards, other good wishes and messages following the passing of Derek. They were very much appreciated

THE BOYS' BRIGADE

You will no doubt recall from the Autumn Link 2021, the 7th Southport Company of the Boys' Brigade connected with Liverpool Road Methodist Church, Birkdale for almost 77 years closed on Sunday, 10th October, 2021, just a month short of its actual enrolment anniversary on Armistice Day the 10th November 1944.



Oliver Hagan had been in our Company since he was five years old, joining the Anchor Boys, then at eight years the Junior Section, before moving into the Company Section as he went on to High (Secondary) School.

During the years in the Company, Oliver was an enthusiastic and loyal member gaining awards throughout his membership. On closure of the Company Oliver had gained The President's Badge and hoped to gain the Queen's Badge. He had learned new skills—chess; helped in the community—local Gymnastic Club as a young leader; was involved in Church activities— Messy Church, taking the offertory, escorting colours and reading lessons from time to time in services. He had hoped to carry out Supper Service for the residents at Connell Court, MHA, Weld Road but Covid ruled this out.. His Dof E Expeditions with his schools also were postponed. To ensure Oliver could get his Queen's Badge he enrolled with the 9th Southport Company (Ainsdale Methodist). Oliver then took part in a Zoom presentation, attended a one day course at our North West District Centre, Kirkham. We are pleased Oliver was able to gain his Queen's Badge award together with 10 other young people from the North West, Durham and Cumbria. It would have been a shame had he missed out! The Official Presentation to recipients is in May by the Her Majesty The Queen's Lord Lieutenant and again shortly afterwards, before our congregation, at a service in our Church. Well done Oliver!

Officers, past & present, 7th Southport B.B. Company.

BROWNIES



Once again, we have had an adventurous term jammed packed full of fun, alongside learning new skills. This term we completed the Network level 2 skill builder's badge, by learning about team work and networking through games and drama. Other evenings included some arts and crafts making presents for Mother's Day.

We have awarded a lot of badges this term, Baking, Dancing, collecting and performing, just to name a few. We are also very proud to award a few Bronze Awards and a Gold award.

We have enjoyed a weekend away at Shirdley Hill Activity Centre for pack holiday themed Heroes Vs Villains. A lot of fun was had by all the Brownies and the bigger Brownies AKA the Leaders.

We say good luck to 4 girls going to Guides after Easter, we wish the all the best for the future.

Brownies restart Monday 25 th April 6pm to 7.30pm and will have spaces for girls aged 7-10. If you know any girls (aged 7-10) interested in joining us please do not hesitate to contact me on my mobile 07366393005.

Amanda Turner.

Brown Owl

FUNNIES.

"Every time the bell rings my dog goes into a corner."

"Why's that?"

"Oh, he's a Boxer." "Where are you taking that basket of plums?"

"I'm taking them to Buckingham Palace for The Queen."

"Why?"

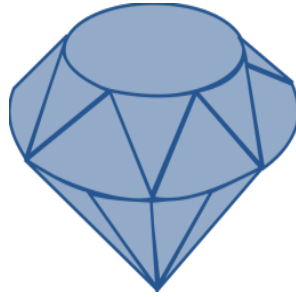
"Because in 'God save the Queen' it says 'Send her Victorias'."

FACETS

Facets was late beginning this year due to Covid 19.

It was agreed to continue from February to Easter without the Half term break.

Registrations have kept to roughly the same as the previous term.



Active retirement has spent more sessions in house rather than outdoor activities due to Covid 19 and also the winter weather.

It has been possible to arrange a Facets holiday in Pitlochry for the Autumn break.

Sonia Thomson a late member of Facets left a bequest in her will for Facets. A Memorial tree has been planted in her memory in the lawns at the front of the Church premises. Thanks are expressed to Geoff France for assistance in its planting.

Facets coffee mornings 10.00 –11.30 a.m. will take place on the following dates: – Tuesdays, May 3rd, June 14th, July 5th and August 2nd.

Enrolment for the Winter Session will be on Tuesday, September 12th.

All are invited to the coffee mornings and the regular Tuesday Sessions.

Come for one week and get a taster.

Brian Simmons

Co-ordinator

WHY ?

Why should there be oil in Qatar and potatoes in Ireland?

The Irish won the toss and had first choice.

BIRKDALE FOOD PANTRY

The Pantry was officially opened on the 1st of March attended by the Mayor of Sefton, local Members of Parliament and many people connected to other churches in and around Birkdale.



It was good for them to see the pantry rooms and hear of the work both on a Wednesday morning and behind the scenes.

Compassion Acts are continuing to take many enquiries from local families struggling to make ends meet particularly at the time with fuel and food prices increasing. The service is well used and opening hours are likely to be extended.

All donations of non-perishable foods and cleaning / laundry items are welcome. For enquiries regarding volunteering please visit the Compassion Acts website

Wishing you all a blessed Easter time.

Sally Eyes

SENIOR THINKING.

Time may be a GREAT HEALER, but it's a TERRIBLE beautician!

You can live without SEX but not without GLASSES !

Old Age? The time of life when ACTIONS CREAK LOUDER than words.

GIRLS' BRIGADE

Since Christmas we have had another new member and continue to have between 10 and 14 girls meeting each week.

We meet for an hour and a quarter and play games, continue with set badge work and other general activities.



We made pancakes on Shrove Tuesday and heard about the Lent season. We have just made Mothers' Day cards and gifts and are having an Easter egg hunt, making Easter nests and an Easter colouring competition. We will round off this session with the Easter story at our last meeting before the Easter holidays.

We thank you for your continued support and pray for a Peaceful and Happy Easter time.

Jayne Wilcox
Leader

FUNNIES.

A lady went in to the butchers shop and asked:

“Have you got a sheep’s head ?”

“No,” the butcher replied “ It’s just the way I part my hair.”

A man played the bugle and nearly got drowned the other day.

He sounded the Last Post at a Dog Show.

RAMBLING CLUB

The Rambling club had a lovely annual meal at Old Links Golf Club where 48 people attended. It was nice to have Mike Brookfield there from Addingham, and one of our founder members Malcolm Dunning.

Following the meal we discussed the new programme for 2022.

Our first walk was led by David Wall and we went from Royden Park to Parkgate, where many of us had ice creams after a very sunny day walking.

The Non-walkers went to West Kirby and then on to Parkgate.

Our next walk is on 9th April, to Loggerheads, North Wales. The Non-walkers are going on to Ruthin and Mold

For information about our trips, which are held on Saturday's once a month, please contact Janet Oldham at < janet.oldham@btopenworld.com >



Janet Oldham

One of the ramblers went into the local bakers shop and asked why had the baker stopped making doughnuts?

Apparently he was fed up with the hole business.

*A perfect example of WASTED ENERGY is telling a hair-raising story to a
BALD MAN*

WESLEY GUILD

In the Christmas 2021 edition of the Link we said Guild would begin on Tuesday evening, 11th January. This didn't happen because of the omicron variant of the virus.



We were able to open on Tuesday evening, 8th February, with a 'Take Time Meditation', led by Rev. Ann Hall.. It turned out to be an amazing spiritual evening. If you get the opportunity to take part in a 'Take Time Meditation' then I advise you to take it. This was followed by an illustrated talk from Rev.

Stuart Reid (retired Vicar of Christ Church) about the impact that Dr Billy Graham and Rev. Nicky Gumbel have had on the Church here in Britain and in the wider world. Stuart Reid's talk was followed by a social evening, led by Colin Fyles, which took the form of a quiz evening.

March began with a devotional evening, led by Rev. Peter Lythe and the remaining March meetings consisted of Lent studies; led by Brian Simmons, Derek Taberner and Colin Fyles.

On Sunday, 20th March, the Annual Guild Service took place led by Rev. Ann Hall. Everyone found the service powerful and challenging. Guild members took part in every part of the service.

Our last gathering before Easter will be lunch at Dolce Vita in Ainsdale on Tuesday, 5th April, which should have taken place before our first evening meeting in January, but Covid stopped it from happening.

After Easter, on Tuesday, 26th April at 7.30 pm, Shirley Potts, will tell us of the impact that the missionary Dr Helen Roseveare had on the Church.

Wesley Guild (Cont'd)

Our last two meetings, before we break for summer, will be: May 3rd our AGM and Social, 10th May will be a Devotional Evening and Communion led by Rev. Patrick Evans.

We finish on a sad note. One of our oldest members, Derek Sale, died a few weeks ago, having spent his last eighteen months or so in a nursing home. Derek was our treasurer for a few years and will be sadly missed. We send our love and the support of our prayers to; Mike and Michelle and the rest of the Sale family.

Dawn James is very ill following a heart attack and stroke. The medical people are putting a support package in place, in the hope that Dawn will be able to be nursed at home. We send our love and the support of our prayers to Molly Wright and the rest of the James' family.

Other members have had, or are having, hospital appointments in the last few weeks. Beryl Woods, Brian Simmons, Zita Kendrick and Bernard Capper have had eye operations or procedures. Ken Hilton and Mark Taylor are continuing with ongoing hospital appointments. We pray that they will all receive the healing that they need.

It's good to welcome Julie Holland into our fellowship and we pray that she will continue to stay healthy following her major surgery.

We wish you all our blessings for a peaceful and safe Easter.

God bless.

Eileen Fyles

WELCOME

*Since the last Link the following outside groups are using our premises.
A warm welcome to the Group Leaders and Members.*



Tai- Chi meets every Wednesday afternoon between 1.00 p.m. and 2.00 p.m. in the Large Hall .
Tai-Chi is perfect for people starting their fitness journey, older adults & anyone looking to build confidence.

Tae- Kwon- Do meets every Wednesday Evenings between 6.00 p.m. and 7.00 p.m. in the Large Hall.
Tae Kwon Do is the art of self defence that originated in Korea. Recognized as one of the oldest forms of martial arts in the world, reaching back over 2000 years



Breathe Easy Sefton North Group meets on the **FIRST** Wednesday afternoon of every month from 1.30 p.m. to 3.30 p.m. in the Front Hall.
We are here to support, educate and provide friendship to people with lung disease. Spouses, partners, friends & carers are always welcome.



Daisy Birthing Foundation Class meets every Wednesday evening between 6.00 p.m. and 8.00 p.m. in the Front Hall.

Antenatal Classes – a weekly class for all those who are pregnant to help you enjoy your pregnancy, stay mobile, learn about your changing baby and body, and prepare for a confident birth.

