



*Liverpool Road
Methodist Church*

Weekly Notices

Sunday Worship

Minister: Rev Patrick Evans

Tel: 07813 211501

Email: patrick.evans@methodist.org.uk

18th December 2022

10.45am Service led by Rev Patrick Evans - Communion

6.30pm - Modern Carols led by Andy Trimble

24th December - 11.30pm Christmas Eve Communion

25th December - 10.30am Christmas Day Celebration at Ainsdale

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 18th December 2022

Isaiah 7.10-16; Psalm 80.1-7,17-19; Romans 1.1-7; Matthew 1.18-25

Prayer

All powerful God, let the splendour of your glory rise in our hearts like the dawn, that the darkness of night may be scattered and the coming of your only Son may reveal us as children of the light. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Bible Study

Bible study will take a Christmas break from 19th December and start again on the 9th January.

Christmas Message

"The weather outside is frightful" and we must take extra care but, as we continue our preparations under difficult circumstances, let us always remember that "Love came down Christmas".

Season's Greetings and Blessings

The Leadership Team

Iona

The last Iona service this year will be Thursday 22nd December 9.15am and will recommence on Thursday 5th January. All welcome.

Ecumenical Prayer Meeting

7.30am Tuesdays in January here at Liverpool Road Church. If you are an early riser and good at making tea please speak to Sally.

Flowers

Our flowers this week have been kindly donated by Lorna Dodd.

Birkdale Prayer Meeting

The next Birkdale Churches Prayer meeting will be held on Monday 9th January at 32 Hartley Crescent starting at 10am.

Food Pantry

Thank you for your generous donations of Christmas biscuits which will be gifted to our families with love and prayers.

In short supply at the moment are: Toilet rolls, tinned meat and tinned veg.



Christmas Link

The Christmas link is now available on our website

<https://birkdalemethodist.org.uk/>

or there are hard copies available from Jim Lloyd.



Facets

Facets registration Tuesday 3rd
January 10.00-11.15am



Christmas Eve Joint Services

6pm Carol Service at St Johns

11.30pm Holy Communion at
Liverpool Road



Changes to the Preaching Plan

Just a couple of changes to note from the printed plan

Christmas Day - We will be joining the congregation at Ainsdale Methodist Church at 10.30, there will be no service at Liverpool Road (there is an 11.30pm service of Holy Communion on Christmas Eve at Liverpool Road).

Sunday 29th January - This will be led by Rev Patrick Evans when we will be joined by the congregations of St James, St John's and St Peters Anglican Churches.

Dear Friends

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.

(Ephesians Ch 5 vs 25-27 - NIV)

What does it mean for us to be a radiant church? A lick of bright paint maybe? Paul wasn't directing his comments to a Property Committee, rather he is writing to "God's holy people in Ephesus". Imagine he was writing to us, God's holy people in Birkdale encouraging us to be his holy people, to be his radiant church. With Christmas approaching, we will be connecting with many others. Do they see us as a shining example of a radiant church? When they do what is it they see; when they don't, what change is needed so we are able to radiate?

The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighbourhood. We saw the glory with our own eyes, the one-of-a-kind glory, like Father, like Son, Generous inside and out, true from start to finish.

John Ch 1 vs 14 - The Message)

I love this version when it says Jesus "moved into the neighbourhood". The NIV version says "he made his dwelling among us". Both are wonderful, although for me the word "neighbourhood" illuminates the human element of Jesus, that in many ways he was a regular Joe, living within a regular neighbourhood.

Today we are the regular Joe's in our neighbourhood, able to be transformed through the divine Spirit into the radiant church. To be transformed we need to make room for Jesus, so that we can radiate in our neighbourhood. This does not mean doing more and more, tiring ourselves out so much that we cease to radiate and become glum and gloomy.

May we make room for Jesus to dwell richly in us, so that his love radiates in our neighbourhood.

God bless you this Christmas, with much love

Patrick