



*Liverpool Road
Methodist Church*

Weekly Notices

Sunday Worship

Minister: Rev Patrick Evans

Tel: 07813 211501

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4th December 2022

10.45am Service led by Shirley Potts

6.30pm Service led by Derek Taberner

11th December - 10.45am Carol Service led by Colin Fyles - AAW

6.30pm Circuit Service

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 4th December 2022

Isaiah 11.1-10; Psalm 72.1-7,18-19; Romans 15.4-13; Matthew 3.1-12

Prayer

God of all holiness, your promises stand unshaken through all generations and you lift up all who are burdened and brought low: renew our hope in you, as we wait for the coming in glory of Jesus Christ, our Judge and our Saviour, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.



Bible Study

Bible study Mondays 7pm in the New room. Bible study will take a Christmas break from 19th December and start again on the 9th January.



Birkdale Churches Carols in the Community

Nursing Homes (2) Wed. afternoon
14th December. Meet at St. James
at 2pm

Birkdale Village. Sat. 17th
December outside Broughs at 10
am

Contact Ken (567576) if you can
make either of these.

Guild

Tuesday 6th December in the New
Room at 7.30pm. Christian Service
- Special music.



Birkdale Prayer Meeting

The next Birkdale Churches Prayer
meeting will be held on Monday
5th December at 66 Hartley
Crescent starting at 10am.



Flowers

Our flowers this week have been
kindly donated by the Hagan
family in memory of Betty.



Iona

Iona service Thursdays 9.15am. All
welcome.

Food Pantry

Thank you so much for your continuing support to supply goods for the food pantry. In short supply at the moment are: Christmas chocolates & Christmas food.



Carols, Cake and Conversation

Sunday morning worship on 11th December will take the form of a Carol Service. Following this you are invited to stay on for a Faith Lunch in the New Room and share the Christmas spirit. If you could bring an item of food (savoury or sweet) for a buffet table that would be appreciated: please sign the sheet in the church vestibule to give us an idea of numbers and food donations.

Tea/coffee will be available after the service as usual for anyone not able to stay for lunch but we hope many of you will be able to take part in this.

Leadership Team

Octave

presents

A Christmas Celebration

With music and carols to bring some Yuletide cheer!

At Ainsdale Methodist Church
Liverpool Road PR8 3NQ

Saturday 10th December 2022 at 7:30pm
Tickets £6.50 incl refreshments

Available from

Sue Hughes Tel:01704 576 482 Mob:07798 707 231

and

Ainsdale Lunch and Leisure



Web www.octavechoir.co.uk



Octave Choir

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

“Less than half of population is Christian” read a headline following the 2021 Census data release. The trajectory of decline from 2011 to 2021 matches that of the previous decade, with a similar increase in those professing no religion.

Surprised nor downhearted with this news? No. Church attendance has always been a minority of the population, whilst the professing of Christianity has often been bound up with national identity. The changes are all part of the ebb and flow of life. Are people any less spiritual than they have been in prior years? No, although less religious, understandably given the negative connotations associated with organised religion.

So what are we to do to do? Simply follow the way of Jesus. One person who did this was John the Baptist. His quirky character and unconventional life style are described to us.

John's clothes were made of camel's hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. (Matthew Ch 3 vs 4)

We are given the picture of a person who did not conform to the norms of society in the way he lived, although the message he brought to the masses of that place and time were refreshing to them, whilst to the religious authorities he was seen as a threat to their power. John had a mission.

“A voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.’” (Matthew Ch 3 vs 3)

Our nation may also feel like a wilderness. Recently I was with the Schools Worker Trust at an assembly during Anti-Bullying Week. What they delivered was simple, profound and awesome, and I know that because of the children's reaction. There was no mention of church attendance, rather a straight path was made for the good news of the gospel to be heard.

Let's keep it simple, doing what we can, where we can, when we can. Let God worry about church attendance (and I imagine he's not at all worried).

God bless you in your witness

Patrick

