



*Liverpool Road  
Methodist Church*

# Weekly Notices

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*17th September 2023*

**10.45am Communion Service led by Rev Ann Hall**  
**4pm Circuit Celebration Service Bescar Lane**

**24th Sept - 10.45am Service led by Derek Taberner**  
**- 6pm Raising Praise at Leyland Road Church**  
**- 6.30pm Fellowship Time led by Andy Trimble**

## **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.*



# *Lectioary Readings 17th September 2023*

Genesis 50.15-21; Psalm 103.(1-7),8-13; Romans 14.1-12; Matthew 18.21-35

## *Prayer*

Gracious God, like a mother you give us new life, and make us your children in Jesus Christ. Look on us in your love, and bring us to the inheritance which you promised. Grant this through Jesus Christ, your Son. Amen.

## *Fona*

Thursdays 9.15am. All welcome.

## *Bible Study*

Mondays 7pm in the New Room.

## *Facets*

Classes meet each Tuesday from 9.30am.

## *Churches Together in Birkdale*

The next Birkdale Churches Prayer meeting will be held on Monday 2nd October at Liverpool Road Methodist Church starting at 10.30am.

## *Worship Consultation*

Our next worship consultation is at 18:45hrs on Wed 27th September in the church. All are welcome and it's your opportunity to share what you have found valuable (or not) in worship and what you would want to experience more of. The agenda is on the link attached to these notices.

## *Food Pantry*

Thank you so much for your continuing support to supply goods for the food pantry.

In short supply at the moment are: tinned carrots, peas, other tinned veg and squash.

## *Thank you*

Carole, Cath, Ben & Tim would like to thank everyone for the kind messages, cards & flowers we have received following our sad loss. Your prayers, thoughts and love have been a great comfort to us.

## *Flowers*

Our flowers this week have been kindly donated by Helen Kirwan.

## *Guild*

Tuesday 19th September in the New Room at 7.30pm. Christian Service - Family Tree, Beryl & Roger Wood.

## *The Link*

Items for the link to Jim Lloyd by the end of September.

[j.lloyd816@btinternet.com](mailto:j.lloyd816@btinternet.com). (Word documents please)

Thank you

## *Church Notices*

If you have any items you want including in the notices please let Lucy Lloyd know on 01704 536648 or [lucy@southportmethodist.org.uk](mailto:lucy@southportmethodist.org.uk).



Dear Friends

*"God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him." (John Ch 3 vs 17)*

This passage, which is an extract from one of this Sunday's set readings, offers us a great insight into the mind of God and God's relationship with humanity. God's starting point is not to condemn, rather to save. It is to offer mercy and grace.

As I reflect on the passage I wonder what my starting point is. I would like to think it is one of grace, although I fear too often I probably start, in my mind at least, with a position of condemning. Within Methodist ministry we often use the word "affirming". From training to be a Worship Leader through to becoming a Minister there are various hurdles to be jumped, with a formal process of assessment and interviewing. Such processes can be daunting although as much as we can we hope they will be affirming.

Most of our lives are spent not in the formal settings I describe above but in the informal chit chat of everyday life. I wonder if we consider first and foremost how we can affirm someone rather than condemn them. Throw away comments that have a sly dig at someone can overtime become hurting in their repetitiveness. Tell a child that they are stupid enough times then it will become their script...I must be stupid!

Sometimes I can do something that is stupid; I think we probably all do from time to time. My experience is that people are trying to do the best they can. My sense is that God is of the same opinion, which is why God's starting point is one of seeking to save. Saving is a positive action. Condemnation is a negative action. God wants what is positive for us.

So in our interactions with one another as a community, if we are to be reflective of God's love, then seeking to save rather than condemn should also be our starting point.

God bless

Patrick

