



*Liverpool Road
Methodist Church*

Weekly Notices

Minister: Rev Patrick Evans

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12th November 2023

10.45am AAW Service led by Tabz

6.30pm Circuit NPNP Service

19th November - 11am Circuit Service at PPW (No Service Here)

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 12th November 2023

Amos 5.18-24; Psalm 70; 1 Thessalonians 4.13-18; Matthew 25.1-13

Prayer

Eternal God, in whose perfect realm no sword is drawn but the sword of justice, and no strength known but the strength of love: guide and inspire all who seek your kingdom, that peoples and nations may find their security in the love which casts out fear; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

Iona

Thursdays 9.15am. All welcome.

Bible Study

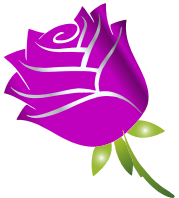
Mondays 7pm in the New Room

Facets

Classes meet each Tuesday from 9.30am.

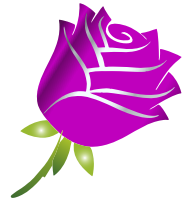
Guild

Tuesday 14th November in the New Room at 7.30pm. Christian Service - Mission Aviation Fellowship.



Flowers

Our flowers this week have been kindly donated by Ray & Pam Flanagan in memory of Jim & June.



Keyholders

If you are no longer holding an official position or post could you please return your Church keys ASAP to Jim Lloyd. New users require keys at £30 a set!

Churches Together in Birkdale

The next Birkdale Churches Prayer meeting will be held on Monday 4th December at 32 Hartley Crescent starting at 10.30am.

Christmas Link

It's November now. I would like to produce a Christmas Link by mid December (THIS YEAR). Would groups/individuals (which are welcomed) please forward articles by 30th November on word documents to j.lloyd816@btinternet.com
Many thanks. Jim Lloyd

Nativity Trail

Birkdale Churches have organised a nativity trail to connect with families at the Christmas Fair in Birkdale Village taking place on Sunday 3rd December between 11am and 5pm. If you are able to volunteer an hour or two of your time please speak to Sally. Thank you.

Christmas Fair

Saturday 25th November 11am-2pm
at Leyland Road Church Hall
Cakes, Chocolates, Plants, Toys, Gifts,
Books, Christmas Stall etc
Bacon/Sausage Barms, Soup &
Refreshments Available

Cameo

We are meeting this month at the Swan
Chippy!
Wednesday November 15th at 1.30.
A table will be reserved for us.
Joan

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 biscuits/chocolates & assorted crisps.

St Johns Social Events

Bingo & Beetle Drive Friday 17th November at 7pm Tickets £5
Film Night Friday 24th November 6.30pm showing 'Official Secrets'.
Christmas Tree Festival & Fair Friday 1st Dec 6pm-9pm &
Sat 2nd Dec 10am-3pm
Coffee, Cake & Chat Monthly 2nd Fridays 10.30am
If interested in attending any event please speak to Sally.

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.



Dear Friends



The set reading for this Sunday is often unused because of Remembrance Sunday. The disciples have asked Jesus "what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?" As part of his answer in Matthew Ch 25 vs 1-13, Jesus tells a parable about ten virgins who are awaiting the arrival of the bridegroom (Jesus) who will open the door to the wedding banquet (heaven). They have lamps to guide them from where they wait, and on into the banquet hall. It takes much longer than expected for the bridegroom to arrive. They fall asleep and their lamps extinguish. Five wise ones had the foresight to bring jars of extra oil with them, five foolish ones had no extra oil. When the bridegroom arrives five are able to proceed directly into the banquet while the other five have to buy some oil and then ask for the banquet door to be opened, with the bridegroom saying "I don't know you". Jesus then says

"Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour." (Matthew Ch 25 vs 13)

I know, we need to be hypervigilant. To be in a permanent state of hypervigilance is unrealistic and unhealthy, it brings about a state of increased anxiety. How does this marry with other elements of Jesus' teaching?

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." (Matthew Ch 11 vs 28-30)

It is not an issue they had fallen asleep, sleep is good and we need it. Perhaps the concern of Jesus is that we don't consider what we need to sustain our faith through our lifetime. The five wise virgins had started with the end in mind. They had prepared for the potential of the long haul. Perhaps Jesus is saying that the objective of our whole life is to be known and counted as his, and when we start each and every day with that understanding, we no longer need to be hypervigilant, we can rest in the lightness of his yoke.

God bless

Patrick

