



*Liverpool Road
Methodist Church*

Weekly Notices

Minister: Rev Patrick Evans

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19th November 2023

11am Circuit Service at PPW (No Service Here)

6.30pm Fellowship Time led by Andy Trimble

**26th November - 10.45am Communion Service led by Rev Ann
Hall**

- 6pm Raising Praise at Leyland Road

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 19th November 2023

Zephaniah 1.7,12-18; Psalm 90.1-8,(9-11),12; 1 Thessalonians 5.1-11; Matthew 25.14-30

Prayer

Almighty God, you sent your Son Jesus Christ to be the light of the world. Free us from all that darkens and ensnares us, and bring us to eternal light and joy; through the power of him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. 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 21st November in the New Room at 7.30pm. Educational - Evangelism.

Card Machine

We now have a contactless card machine available for Church donations. If you would like to gift aid your donation please fill out the form and place in the envelope provided.

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.

Prayer Meeting

There will be a prayer meeting at Birkdale URC between 1.00 and 3.00 on Saturday 18th. 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 biscuits/chocolates & assorted crisps.

St Johns Social Events

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

I don't begin to think of the "C" word until Remembrance Sunday has passed, and so now I can mention it...Christmas! As part of my preparation I try and reflect on how Christmas is portrayed within society. As an example I look at TV adverts to see where there may be theological links.

My strong sense is that ten years ago it was far easier to spot clear correlations than it is today. This illustrates how quickly secularisation is accelerating, and how sensitive organisations are to promoting something of faith when it may be perceived to be exclusive. This is not my experience in schools, where children are taught about the major world faiths and can express very coherently the Christmas story. Elsewhere though it feels that the purpose of Christmas is narrowed to spending time with those we love most. Whilst there is nothing wrong with this, Christmas is so much more.

As Christians, how can we maintain the distinctiveness of Christmas from a faith perspective, so that its meaning continues to strengthen our faith? I know that I can find it difficult during the seasons of Advent and Christmas to be fully immersed with them whilst navigating the secular pull of Christmas.

Perhaps we need to be more intentional in our approach.

There are a variety of study guides that can take us through Advent, and the Christian website Eden offers a wide selection (visit <https://www.eden.co.uk/christian-books/christmas-and-advent-books/advent-books/>). I feel a tad too old for an advent calendar, although for some reflective mindfulness there are now Advent calendar jigsaws, with 24 small boxes of pieces that you puzzle day by day until by day 24 the jigsaw is complete. I may try a Reverse Advent Calendar this year (see <https://www.familycorner.co.uk/what-reverse-advent-calendar-and-how-do-i-make-one>). The Daily Service on the radio through Advent will offer space for reflection.

How might the Advent and Christmas seasons be this distinctly Christian for you this year?

God bless

Patrick

