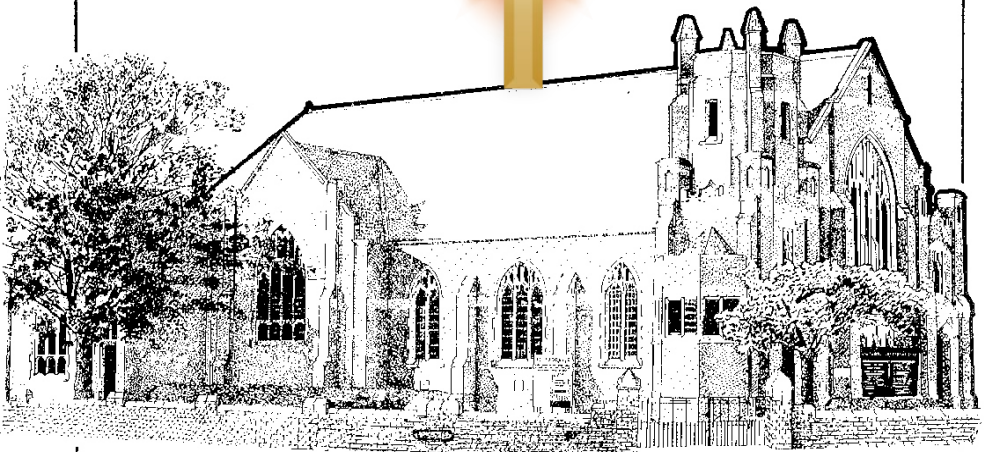


The LINK

NEWS FROM
LIVERPOOL ROAD
METHODIST CHURCH



EASTER 2025

FROM OUR MINISTER – Rev Ernie Grimshaw

Hope and Christian beliefs.



The true meaning of Easter is about the love Jesus has for us and the purpose and peace he gives us.

In the Bible, Jesus said of himself, “I am the path, the truth, and the energy of life. No one comes to the Father except through me” (*John 14:6, The Voice*).

Jesus died and rose back to life so everyone can have a meaningful relationship with God the Father – the Creator of the Universe. Sin broke that relationship, but Jesus repaired it. Because of Jesus’ victory over death by coming back to life, we too can experience a new, everlasting life in Heaven with God.

But not only does Jesus offer us a promise for the future, he also offers everyone hope and joy for today. When the world causes us stress about the cost of living and health concerns, anxiety over safety, heartache, dissatisfaction, fear and many other crises or negative feelings, Jesus offers us something greater and deeper. He offers us a promise of peace.

Jesus says, “I am leaving you with a gift — peace of mind and heart! And the peace I give isn’t fragile like the peace the world gives. So don’t be troubled or afraid” (*John 14:27, TLB*).

Ernie

1.

EASTER SERVICES at Liverpool Road

April 13th, 2025 – Palm Sunday

10.45 a.m. All Age Worship – Rev Ernie Grimshaw
6.30 p.m. Circuit Service

April 17th, 2025– Maundy Thursday

9.15 a.m. Iona Service

April 18th, 2025 – Good Friday

10.30 a.m. - Rev Ernie. Grimshaw

April 20th, 2025 – Easter Day

10.45 a.m. Morning Worship led by Mrs. Shirley Potts
6.30 p.m. Fellowship Time

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Members unwell/indisposed

The following members have been unwell of late. We hope they will soon return to good health and be back among us.

Hilary and Bryan Barrass; Anne and Mark Taylor;
Brenda Taylor; Roger Wood; Bernard Capper;
Liz Winter; Glenna Warner



News of others

PAMELA SMITH, the twin sister of Pat Alexander, passed away on the 19th March, 2025. She was being cared for by Pat, in Sheffield, where her funeral will take place on 16th April. Whenever Pamela visited Southport she would attend Church with Pat. She will be sadly missed and our sympathies, love and prayers are extended to Pat, Pamela's sons Chris and Phil and the family

2.

Church Family News (continued)

Obituaries

SHEILA HELEN FRANCE died on Saturday, December 14th, 2025, in Southport & Formby District General Hospital following a brief illness. Her funeral took place on Friday, 14th January, 2025, followed by the committal service. Sheila was a long standing member of both Liverpool Road Methodist and previously Ainsdale Methodist Churches and most regular in worship. Sheila was the eldest sister to Sylvia and Margaret. The three daughters who, with her parents, moved in the late 1940's early 50's from the Rochdale area to Southport, worshipping at Kent Road Methodist until its closure and her marriage to Geoff. She was a Teacher by profession and taught in Liverpool. Sheila was a keen Tennis player and a Member of Liverpool Road Methodist's Tennis Club. Among her interests were Painting and Music. She was also one of the longest serving members of our The Wesley Guild. Sheila greeted everyone in the congregation on Sundays with a lovely smile and is sadly missed. Our sympathy, love and prayers to Geoff, their children, Kevin, Lynn, Ian and their families in their sad loss.



DOREEN DAVIES following a long illness, died last month (March, 2025), She was confined Doreen to her home and cared for by her family. Doreen's husband died some years earlier. Prior to her illness, Doreen was regular in her church attendance. She was always pleased to receive her copy of *'The Link'* following the goings on at Liverpool Road, with interest. We extend our sympathy, love and prayers to her children Tony, Debbie and Roy in their sadness at this time. The funeral took place recently at Southport Crematorium.

PROPERTY MATTERS



We now see the seeds of spring all round and hopefully the weather will soon warm up encouraging us to tackle some outside work.

The Monday morning maintenance team still continues to meet weekly, from about 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. Recent work which was tackled included the dry rot outbreak in the church and corridor at the Sandon Road entrance. This meant much redecoration work, after the removal of infected plaster and wood panels. Andy has been staining and varnishing the wood panelling and this area now fits in with the surrounding woodwork and walls. The walls in the adjacent corridor have also been redecorated. Our thanks are extended to Andy for undertaking this task.

Phil Holland and I have been working in the Church disabled toilet. Following water ingress the floor was badly stained and after much rubbing with a 'magical cleaner', it has at last been removed ! We have also carried out some plastering repairs, much preparation of the walls, replacing damaged ceiling tiles and repainting the walls with emulsion paint

PVC Double glazed windows have replaced the wooden frames in the Girls' Brigade storeroom – being part of the redecoration planned for this room.

Many tasks are carried out on a weekly basis to keep the whole site tidy – both inside and outside. The re-cycling bins are slowly being used correctly, although there is still confusion regarding what is recycling material and what is general waste, but we seem to be getting there ! Thanks to all who are co-operating and using the bins properly.

Property matters (continued)

The damaged wallpaper in entrance hall to The New Room has been patched up with paper from stock but will require further work. The Quinquennial Inspection requirements are still being carried out and being ticked off in their order of priority.

Geoff France

Property Chair

JUNIOR CHURCH

In Junior Church we have been looking at different people in the Bible. We have been playing Bible Trivia and Memory games. The game that made us think the most was 'Who am I' making us think more about the questions needing to be asked to find out which person we were in the Bible.



Jack & Summer have helped to make Christingles & Mother's Day posies for the congregation. They have also taken part in reading & lighting the Advent Candles & the Lent Liturgy.

We have welcomed 2 different children on separate occasions into Junior Church. It is always lovely when other children come to join us.

Junior Church would like to thank you all for your continued support for the Junior Missions Association (JMA).

Vicky McCaffrey & Leaders

POTTERY PAINTING.

Rev Jennie Hardy (St. John's, Birkdale) and I have received a grant of £3000 from Sefton, Southport Recovery Fund – to do sessions of a pottery painting activity to offer support to Southport families with young children (mainly aged 4–12 years). Our sessions will be the Fourth Saturday afternoon 1.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. – every month March to October, 2025 and St John's will be on Tuesdays from 2.30p.m. to 6.00 p.m. from 15th April until October.

Our first session was on 22nd March, 2025. We had a wonderful team of volunteers who helped from LRMCo – in particular Pam and Ray Flanagan and Nicky and Ernie Grimshaw were very supportive helping to set it up. Katy and Lee Rushton and Lisa Flanagan helped to advertise it on Facebook – as did Jennie Hardy. Lucy, our Circuit Administrator, did some artistic posters and fliers. Molly Wright kindly gave us some of her cards for an extra activity. Janet Oldham and Martin Maynard organised some DBS checks for volunteers. On the 22nd March our volunteers were – Pam and Ray Flanagan, Nicky and Ernie Grimshaw, Lee and Katy Rushton, Lin Capper, Anne Higgins, Ruth Murray and myself.

The young families started arriving at 1:30pm and just kept coming – we had 62 children and 45 adults! We also offered people tea, coffee, squash and some cakes and biscuits.

The children were well behaved and enjoyed painting their pots – they could choose from a number of different designs of lanterns and also some animals such as dogs and cats and plant pots and family plaques.

We had some LED lights for the lanterns, and I enjoyed going round all the tables showing the children how to blow the battery powered lights on and off!

However when I did this activity with my 12 year old granddaughter it wasn't messy at all – so I wore a white T-shirt – not surprisingly it was more messy than expected – particularly when washing off the squirted paint from the plastic palettes – so I now have a multi coloured T-Shirt !

Pottery Painting (continued)

What was moving was how appreciative the young parents were.

Going forward there are definite challenges of how to manage the numbers coming and our limited resources – but overall it was a very encouraging, enjoyable afternoon. A big thank you to all of our hard working volunteers. Our next session is Saturday, 26th April, 2025 from 1.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.

Caroline Broadhurst

GIRLS' BRIGADE

In January we joined with other Companies in the District for a visit to the



Pantomime. We really enjoyed Cinderella and the atmosphere was great. It's an Annual outing for us and we always look forward to it.

Again we have taken the opportunity to partake in craft activities for Valentine's Day and Mothers' Day, something that the girls like doing and sharing what they have made with their families. Tuesday evenings go pretty quickly.

By the time we have refreshments and games it's time to go home ! We made pancakes on Shrove Tuesday and told the story of why we have pancakes on this day.

By the time you read this we will have been into Church to look at the Lenten Cross and all the elements that have been added week by week. The girls' knowledge of this is always astounding and between them, they can almost tell this story to each other.

Of course the evening ends with chocolate!

We wish you all a Happy Easter, and thank you for your continued support.

Jayne Wilcox

FACETS



The Spring session of Facets did not get off to a good start. The pavements were like sheets of glass. We did manage to contact all but two members so no accidents were caused. The next session was a little crushed with persons trying to register and others trying to go to classes. I think it worked out Ok in the end.

Two major problems confronted us :-

1. The caterers decided to retire.

We had great difficulty in finding a replacement. Caterers in Southport do not like providing hot food off site. We have found one and made a booking for the Easter Meal on April 1st, 2025. Our usual caterers had served us for over ten years and so we look forward as good a service again.

2. The Treasurer resigned.

We have not been able to find a replacement and are still looking.
Any offers ?

Following these problems the rest of the term appeared to go off fairly well.

We have planned our usual coffee mornings for the first Tuesday in the month 10–1130 when we welcome everyone to join us (May–September)

Our Autumn Enrolment is on 9th September with classes starting the following week

The Facets Annual Worship Service will take place one Sunday in October ((date to be announced later)

Our Annual holiday is booked for October when we go to a Warner Hotel for four nights

Our Christmas meal is pencilled in for first Tuesday in December.

We look forward to new members joining us on a Tuesday.

During the Summer call in and join us for a cuppa and a chat

Brian Simmons

WESLEY GUILD



We began our 2025 programme with a delicious lunchtime meal at Dolce Vita Italian restaurant, in Ainsdale, attended by twenty-two members, family and friends.

We began our weekly Tuesday meetings on 21st January, with the United Reform Minister, Rev Hilary Smith, who led a devotional evening. Sally Eyes gave us an update on the progress of The Food Pantry.

Bernard Capper led a musical evening, where members brought a piece of recorded music to play, and explained why they chose it.

Rev Peter Lythe, the retired United Reform Minister, led a devotional evening. Rev Sam Johnson, and his wife, who is a Mid-wife, talked about their charity, in Southern Africa, where they spent a few weeks, earlier this year. They support a Maternity Hospital financially and try to persuade pregnant women to come to the hospital for tests and scans. They also try to persuade them to go into hospital to have their babies, rather than have them at home, often outside, where the survival rates of the babies is very low.

Our minister, Rev Ernie Grimshaw, gave a talk outlining his vision for the Church, both locally, nationally and worldwide. The following week Ernie led the first Lent talk. This will be followed by three other Lent talks, the third one led by Ernie.

The last meeting before Easter will be Easter Praise, led by Brian Simmons.

The last two meetings after Easter will be a Social and a Faith Supper, led by Ken Revill.

The final meeting before we break until September will be the Annual General Meeting.

At the A.G.M. we will be arranging our summer activities.

We were very sad to learn about the passing of Sheila France, just before Christmas. She was one of the longest serving

Wesley Guild (continued).

attend Guild until shortly before her death. She was very regular in her Guild attendance, a radiant Christian and she was always smiling. She will be sadly missed. We send our love and prayers to Geoff and the family.

We are glad to report that Roger Wood, who has been struggling with a badly infected heel, is getting back to normal, and he is able to walk much better.

We also are glad to report that Bernard Capper has had a successful knee replacement operation. At the time of writing, Bernard is progressing well. He is home from hospital and going out for very short walks, first of all using two crutches, and then using only one crutch. He is doing exercises to bend the knee, which is proving quite painful. Hopefully, by the time you read this he will be well on the way back to full use.

We also remember Brenda Taylor, who is in Westcliffe Manor Nursing Home. She seems content and is receiving a regular supply of visitors.

On behalf of the Guild members, we wish you a very happy and peaceful Easter.

God bless

Eileen Fyles

OUR TRIP TO EGYPT- Eileen & Colin Fyles.

Eileen and I were fortunate to have a trip to Egypt, in early February this year. The holiday was arranged by our daughter Catherine, it was a surprise for Eileen, we told her on Christmas day, last year. Another surprise for her was that our eldest grandson, Chris, who lives in Scotland, was also going and it was only when we got in the taxi, to go to the airport, that she noticed him in the back. We stayed in a lovely hotel in Hurghada, on the Red Sea. The temperature was in the low twenties, about 22 degrees C, which would have been really nice, but there was a cold wind, blowing off the Sea, which made it

Our Trip to Egypt–Eileen & Colin Fyles (continued)

seem a lot colder. However the wind dropped for three day, which was very welcome. The day that would be of interest to you was a trip to Cairo, to see the pyramids, and the sphynx, in the morning. In the afternoon we had a visit to the Cairo Museum of Ancient Egyptian History. The Pyramids and the Sphynx are fairly impressive

from a distance away, but they are spectacular when you are standing up close to them.

Each block, that the pyramids are built from, are cubes of granite, about 1.5 metres each side, and each block weighs well over a tonne. The guide was telling us that they still



don't know how they were able to cut them. The technology that they know was available to them at that time would make it impossible to cut granite into blocks. They believe there is a technology they used that still hasn't been discovered. They are still searching, in the hope that they can solve the mystery. We could have gone inside the pyramids, but we were warned that is very hot and extremely cramped, as all the passage ways are very tiny. Also, we wouldn't have enough time to include that, because of the journey, we'll tell you about that later. After lunch, in a very nice restaurant, we visited the museum. It was vast, and it included a display of various mummies (The old, and long dead, bandaged varieties, not ladies with children!). They were in sealed glass cases, some of them had the bandages around the head missing, so we were able to see the shrivelled faces, some still had strands of hair on their heads! There was also a collection of artefacts from Pharaoh Tutankhamun, including the, now famous gold covering, showing the shape of his face. Of equal interest were comments from our guide about the time of the pharaohs, when Moses was in Egypt.

Our Trip to Egypt–Eileen & Colin Fyles (continued)

The so called; ‘New Atheists’, such as Richard Dawkins and Stephen Fry are quick to tell everyone that there is no historical evidence for the Israelites being enslaved in Egypt, apart from the Biblical account in Exodus. Our guide was an Egyptian Muslim, with an honours degree in Ancient Egyptian History. He spent a few minutes telling us about Moses, who was brought up by the pharaoh of the time. He mentioned Pharaoh Rameses, and said the ‘meses’ part of his name, is from the same root as Moses, both mean prince. He went on to talk about Moses and his defence of the Israelites in Egypt. He was telling us about the historical evidence, he wasn’t supporting the Judeo Christian ethos! So, don’t take any notice of the arguments, put forward by people like Dawkins, Fry and others. They are very clever people but they will ignore any evidence that supports the existence of God, or lack of evidence, if it is needed to support their atheistic view. I (Colin) could go into detail about the lack of evidence part, but I don’t want to bore you.

Now to the journey from Hurghada to Cairo, and back again.

We could have gone by air to Cairo and back, but it would have cost us about £1,000 in total, but the time each way was only 1 hour. We went by coach, which cost us about £250 in total. We left Hurghada at 1am and arrived in Cairo about 8am. After leaving the museum, we got back on the coach about 4pm, and arrived back at our hotel about 10.15 p.m.

Finally, just to show you that we did relax and enjoy ourselves, Catherine and Chris went on a trip into the desert on quadbikes one day. On another day they went for a sail on the Red Sea, and Chris went scuba diving, and snorkelling, while Catherine sat on the boat. On both days Eileen and I went for local walks, including a walk along the beach, and went for a paddle in The Red Sea.

Eileen & Colin Fyles.

THE CELTISH CONCERT

Our Celtish concert of 8th March 2025 was a great success bringing joy and uplifting our spirits with wonderful Christian based Celtic music. We raised money for the Southport and Area Schools Worker Trust and had a positive outreach into our community, with many new faces in the audience.

We have some great news in that Celtish are doing a Christmas Special tour at the end of the year and we are on the tour list!

The Celtish Concert – A Heartfelt Thanks

Your music filled our sacred space,
With harmony and tender grace.
Nigel and Julie, Celtish duo divine,
Your talents made our March evening shine.

Hearts were lifted, spirits raised,
As melodies and voices praised.
Our church and community came as one,
Inspired by the gift that you have done.

For outreach touched and funds now raised,
For School Trust workers, paths now paved.
Even those of different faith were stirred,
By the beauty in each note and word.

Your music's magic will long remain,
Forever a treasure that sustains.
Thank you for coming to our shore,
And sharing your gift – we yearn for more!

Craig Horan

RAMBLING CLUB



The Rambling group has started off with a very pleasant 7.5 mile walk from Brinscall to Chorley with 23 walkers enjoying a very sunny day. The rest of the group went to Chorley town centre or were dropped off at Astley Park on the way through to enjoy the gardens and the café there before venturing into Chorley. Bookings are open for our next trip to Clitheroe anyone wishing to join this trip as either an A walker or a B walker or just to mooch round the shops. The coach leaves Church at 8.30a.m. on Saturday, 12th April and the cost is £15 Please contact

me at janet.oldham@btpopenworld.com to book your place. Everyone is welcome on any of the trips throughout the year the list is as follows:-

April 12th Clitheroe – Walkers 7.7miles linear walk Led by Janet.
'B' Walkers– Edisford Bridge. Non-walkers Clitheroe

May 17th Walkers–Llandudno, Great Orme. Led by John and Yvonne.
'B' Walkers–options available. Non-walkers Llandudno.

June 14th Walkers–Elterwater to Coniston 7.5 miles. Led by Janet
Non-walkers– Coniston.

July 12th Walkers–Grassington area . Led by Stuart.
Non-walkers–Skipton

August 9th Walkers–Threlkeld to Keswick 7 miles. Led by Janet .
'B' Walkers–Disused railway. Non-walkers–Keswick

Sept'r 13th Walkers–Ambleside to Bowness 8.5 miles. Led by Janet.
'B' Walkers–options available. Non-walkers–Ambleside and Bowness.

Oct'r 11th Walkers –Calver to Bakewell 7.5 miles. Led by Janet.
Non-walkers–Bakewell

Nov'r 8th Gtr.Manchester– Walkers–Lyme Park. Led by Carolyn Miley
'B' Walkers–Lyme Park. Non-walkers–The Trafford Centre.

Happy Easter everybody Janet

Painting Pottery Sessions



Liverpool Road Methodist Church

Open to children aged 4-12 years and their parents, there's no need to book - just come along and have fun! These sessions are designed for Southport young families and will take place on the **4th Saturday of each month from March to October, running from 1:30pm to 4:30pm.** They are completely free of charge.

For more details, please contact Caroline Broadhurst on 07967 971484.

