

The LINK

NEWS FROM
LIVERPOOL ROAD
METHODIST CHURCH



EASTER2026

FROM OUR MINISTER – Rev Ernie Grimshaw



MAKING ROOM FOR EASTER

The early Christians who set aside the weeks leading up to Easter for prayer and reflection had good reasons. They knew that life is busy and the days speed past, running into years before you know it. Time to take stock, to reassess the balance of our life and our priorities, is hard to find.

Whether or not we share the same motivation as the early Christians, we can all benefit from a time to take stock. Easter is a time to clear away the old and make room for the new. There may be things we would like to change or we may just want to count our blessings. Once we stop to look around us there is still plenty in the world to be thankful for, despite all that is evil and unjust.

This Easter, may we join with Samuel Crossman (c.1624–1683) in his hymn

“My song is love unknown” when he says,

“Here might I stay and sing,

no story so divine:

never was love, dear King,

level was grief like Thine !

This is my Friend,

in whose sweet praise

I all my days

could gladly spend.

Minister's letter (continued)

Nicky and I look forward to celebrating Easter with you and we give thanks to God for this Church that has impacted many lives over the years and will continue to do so in the future.

Ernie

EASTER SERVICES at Liverpool Road

March 29th, 2026 – Palm Sunday

10.45 a.m. Morning worship led by Mrs Jean McKenna

April 2nd, 2026 – Maundy Thursday

9.15 a.m. Iona Service

April 3rd, 2026 – Good Friday

10.45 a.m. Local Arrangement

April 5th, 2026 – Easter Day

10.45 a.m. Morning Worship led by Rev. Ernie Grimshaw
and Sacrament .

6.30 p.m. Local Arrangement

FROM OUR SENIOR STEWARD

Leadership Review

Attendance at Sunday worship has been steady and a few new people have made return visits. At the Christingle Service on December 21st, 2025, there were a number of people who were not regular worshippers. The Christmas Day Service went well and a big thank you to Craig Horan who led this and to the Grimshaw family for their Carol Service on December 28 th, 2025.

The Service late on New Year's Eve and the Covenant Service on January 4th, 2026, were both led by Rev. Ernie Grimshaw – they were times of blessing and fellowship as we entered the New Year.

As regarding a vision for the way forward we have had two Away Days at the Manse. The first was mainly to share fellowship but in the second in January we discussed the many activities which our church is already doing and discussed possible ways forward in the future.. with another away day on April 11th,2026..

The Annual Church Meeting will be on Sunday (after the morning Service) on the May 24th, 2026.

Sadly, our Brownie Pack of many years is soon merging with another group and will no longer be meeting at our church.

Caroline Broadhurst

Senior Steward

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Members unwell –Please remember in your prayers.

Brenda Taylor in Westcliff Court

Liz Winter in Peacehaven

Mark & Ann Taylor

Brian Simmons with Eye problems

Joan Farnorth

Lorna Dobb recovering from Hip surgery and back with us.

Eve Trimble following heart surgery came through the operation successfully and recuperating.

and other members of the congregation known to yourselves



Members celebrating a birthday recently.

Brenda Taylor

Lorna Dobb

Audrey Lloyd

Graham Iddon

Ken Grundy

Glenna Warner

Jim Lloyd



Trust you all enjoyed your special day plus others missed off.

FOODBANK



The Foodbank opens every Wednesday morning, serving up to 20 families or individuals to help with their weekly household budgeting. The Foodbank is well stocked with supplies from Compassion Acts and other donations. We

welcome donations of tinned and dried goods, cleaning products and toiletries. Refreshments are served as the shoppers wait for their shopping session and they are welcome to stay for fellowship throughout the morning. The smooth running of the Pantry is due to the committed volunteers (12 in total), one of whom has recently joined the team having used the pantry for twelve months.

We continue to pray for this project and others throughout the town which are overseen by Compassion Acts.

Sally Eyes

Senior Quotes

You know you're old **when the candles** cost more than your birthday **cake**.

'**Getting on**' is when you hear **snap, crackle and pop** before you get down to **breakfast**.

PROPERTY MATTERS



The last couple of years or so has been dominated by inspections and important surveys.

The Quinquennial Inspection, a Fire Risk Assessment, an Asbestos Survey and most recently a visit from a Representative of our Methodist Insurers arranging and preparing for these visits takes considerable time. Dealing with the

subsequent REQUIREMENTS even more so.

I am pleased to say that all these matters have in the main been dealt with.

Thanks to Andy, Graham, Jim, Phil, and Ken (The Monday Morning Team) for their help clearing out old stock from the Boiler House and the rejigging of these spaces in order to store our essentials. With regard to this issue of the amount of stock we all keep on the premises. PLEASE see if it is all necessary for your requirements. Can we get rid of some of this? This matter impacts everyone. Please help if you can. Please don't leave unnecessary materials, etc., on our premises.

Thank you to Graham and Ken for regularly replenishing toilet role holders, soap dispensers and cleaning rolls in the Church and School Halls and most importantly sorting out re-cycling and rubbish and then getting the latter removed to the tip.

Two outstanding measures remain. Remedial work is necessary to ensure the Church Lightning Conductor meets the required standard. Additionally,

Property Matters (continued)

Portable Appliance Testing (PAT) is required, with commencement scheduled for February 2026. Work has now finished regarding the second outbreak of dry rot in the Church. Thank you to Andy for overseeing this important task. Engaging specialists to handle the issue and then performing the task of staining and varnishing the new woodwork.

Other maintenance includes decorating The Girls' Brigade room and altering the exit door hinges to allow outward opening for fire escape purposes.

Remove the damaged notice board that was located near Sandon/Liverpool Road entrance. Replacement Mortice lock on the door of the main hall entrance. Ray arranged for the necessary tradespeople to redecorate the New Room (undertaken nicely during the Christmas Break) A big improvement. Thank you, Ray.

Other works carried out since the last Link issue include – Repointing the outer Wall of the 'old kitchen' , he replacement of gates at the Liverpool/Sandon Road and Sandon Road entrances and the rebuilding of the Gate Pillar at the entrance to the Car Park.

Geoff France.

Property Chair.

Senior Quote

*Progress was good when I was young, but now it has **gone on** far too long.*

FACETS

Despite the wet, windy and cold weather from the start of this session –January



– it hasn't had much effect on the attendance at the Tuesday meetings of Facets. Activities and fellowship are enjoyed by the various groups and during the mid-morning Coffee break an opportunity to catch up with each other.

The Spring session will shortly be over but on the first Tuesday of each month from 10.00 a.m., members meet for coffee until registration, for the new session, in early September takes place.

'Facets' was introduced to Liverpool Road by Rev. Warren Bardsley and his late wife Joan, during their Ministry here, in the nineties. It was aimed at elderly people in the Birkdale area to participate in a variety of activities and interests. It continues in much the same format today.

Brian Simmons is indisposed at present with eye problems and unable to type the Facets report for the Link which has been put together on his behalf.

I'm sure all members of Facets will wish him a speedy recovery.

This report compiled due to Brian being unwell. (JL)

Senior Quote

You know when you are **getting on.....**

The only **whistles** you get come from the kettle

Penguin Answers (Pages 12 & 13)

1. 3 fishes; 2. Fishtachio; 3. Use their flippers

On b-icles B. Flipper Flops

WESLEY GUILD



We are towards the end of our programme of meetings, which runs from September to the first week in May, with breaks for Christmas and Easter.

As we approach the Easter break we are able to report a fairly fruitful few months, with an average attendance of around fifteen.

Since the last edition of the Link, at Christmas we have had talks by both our minister, Ernie Grimshaw, and his wife Nicky. Both talks were inspirational, and challenging. Ernie's talk ended with a short Communion service.

Sally Eyes talked about the links that have been formed between Liverpool Road Church and Birkdale Library. This is yet another link to the local Birkdale and Hillside community, living close to our Church... Rev. Patrick Evans talked about the spiritual part of the bicycle ride that he and Craig Horan went on through the Pyrenees mountain range, on pilgrimage. The ride sounded exhausting, and enjoyable, but the spiritual rewards were worth all the hard work.

During Lent we had four Tuesday evenings where we were involved in a 'Lent Studies' course, written by an Anglican Clergyman, David Adam. The course was called 'Come & See'. The first three weeks were led by members of Guild. The fourth and final week was led by Rev. Ernie Grimshaw.

The week, before we had a break for Easter, was Easter Praise. It was due

Wesley Guild (continued)

to be taken by Brian Simmons but, due to ill health, Doreen Iddon took his place, and led it.

After the Easter break, Craig will be giving a talk about his new hobby, involving bees wax.

Following this, the Praise Group will be treating us to an evening of Christian songs and hymns. The next Tuesday, there will be the final social evening, led by Colin Fyles. The following, and final week, before our summer break, will be the A.G.M.

I have enclosed a photograph of one of our members, Brenda Taylor, taken in the nursing home where she now lives. It was taken on her 90th birthday.

Easter blessings to you all

Eileen Fyles



JUNIOR CHURCH

In junior church we are always happy to welcome any children into the Sunday school.

Jack & Summer did the advent reading & lit a candle. They also made a flannel graph picture of the nativity. They are in the process of doing a flannel graph picture for Palm Sunday.



They made small posies of flowers and gave them out on Mothers' Day.

At present we are looking at the Bear Grylls book 'The Greatest Story ever told' and chatting about the chapters.

Vicky McCaffrey

The helpers in Junior Church.

IF A CHILD

*If a child lives with **criticism** they learn to **condemn***

*If a child lives with **ridicule** they learn to be **shy***

*If a child lives with **shame** they learn to be **guilty***

*If a child lives with **tolerance** they learn to be **patient***

*If a child lives with **encouragement** they learn **confidence***

*If a child lives with **praise** they learn to **appreciate***

*If a child lives with **fairness** they learn **justice***

*If a child lives with **security** they learn to have **faith***

*If a child lives with **approval** they learn to like **themselves***

*If a child lives with **acceptance and friendship** they learn
to **find love on the world.***

*From a Bicentenary oration in honour of Robert Raikes of Gloucester (1736-1811)
founder of the Sunday School Movement in 1780.*

GIRLS' BRIGADE



We started back after Christmas, and straight into our badgework.

At the end of January we went to the pantomime, Aladdin and the Pirates at Lord Street West. More than 50 girls, leaders, parents and siblings from three Southport Companies turned out on a wet Friday night to see a great performance by the West End Players. We really enjoyed it. A great family night out

On Shrove Tuesday we enjoyed homemade pancakes and the relevance of them at the start of Lent.

By the time you read this article we will have had a visit from Mark Taylor and his Guide Dog Millie. Mark is coming to tell us about Millie and how important she is to him, and why Guide Dogs are needed. The girls are looking forward to their visit and have some questions ready for Mark.

On the last Tuesday of the session we will be going into Church to see the Lenten Cross, talk about the elements and their meanings. Of course the evening would not be complete without an Easter egg hunt!

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

Jayne Wilcox

PENGUINS

1. What did the Penguin get from The Genie in the lamp?
2. What is a Penguins favourite Ice cream flavour?
3. How do Penguins make pancakes? (Answers– Page 8)

POTTERY PAINTING

Our monthly Pottery Painting sessions from September to December last year were remarkably well supported and enjoyed by the young families.

The fund-raising event on Saturday, October 11th, 2025, of a Teddy Bears Picnic with a Teddy zip-wire was really appreciated by the young children.

We raised a good sum of money which was kindly matched by Barclays bank.

We have continued to have remarkable support from our volunteers who have worked very hard.

We have taken a break from January until March – but are starting back in April with monthly sessions now from 2:30p.m. to 4.00 p.m., thus, our next three sessions will be April 25th, May 23rd, and June 27th, 2026

The consensus of the volunteers in our planning meeting on March 14th, 2026, was that if the support continues then we would like to continue with monthly pottery painting sessions. We hope to integrate some gentle activities in church at the end of the year.

Caroline Broadhurst

Penguins.

- A. *How do Penguins get around?*
- B. *What do Penguins wear on the beach?*

(Answers -Page 8)

RAMBLING CLUB



The Rambling Club met on Saturday, 17th January, 2026 at the Old Links golf club, where we were treated to a lovely meal as usual, we then heard about the programme for the year, it was a great time of conversation and catching up. We had a presentation for Ken Revill who has dedicated the

last 40 years plus by being involved in all aspects of the rambling club from leading walks to supporting those that lead walks, although he feels his rambling days are over, he still supports us in the work we continue to do to maintain the group. Thank you Ken for your dedication and support over the years.

We have a new and varied programme this year we charge £15 and we pick up at Liverpool Road at 8.30 and then Leyland Road and the Plough, if you would like to attend any of our trips as a walker or non-walker please let me know

Thanks

Janet (07743 782 125)

Walking Itinerary for 2026

April 18th, 2026.

CLITHEROE

'A' walk Whalley to Clitheroe led by Janet

'B' walk river walk from Clitheroe or sculpture park

None walkers Clitheroe. Clitheroe Services en-route

May 9th, 2026.

LLANGOLLEN

'A' walk Llangollen led by John and Yvonne

'B' walk Canal walk

None walkers. Canal cruise/Llangollen.

Chester Services en-route

Rambling Club (continued)

- June 13th, 2026 AYSGARTH/HAWES
'A' walk Aysgarth fall to Bolton Castle led by Paul and Jane
'B' walk Aysgarth circular led by Pete
None walkers Hawes. Toilets stop ONLY en-route
- July 11th, 2026 BOWNESS
'A Walk' Crossthwaite to Staveley led by Janet
'B walk' opposite side of Windermere
None walkers Bowness. Truckstop Services en-route
- August 8th, 2026 KESWICK
'A walk' Walla Crag to Keswick led by Janet
'B walk' Disused Railway / Friars Crag
None walkers Keswick. Tebay Services en-route
- Sept. 12th, 2026 SKIPTON/GRASSINGTON
'A walk' Kettlewell to Grassington led by Stuart
'B walk' Grassington River walk or Skipton woodland walk
None walkers Skipton
- October 10th, 2026 KENDAL
'A walk' Sizergh Castle circular led by Janet
'B walk' Kendal Castle or river walk
None walkers Keswick. Truckstop Services en-route
- November 7th, 2026 CHESTER
'A walk' Chester circular led by Janet
'B walk' Chester River or walls
None walkers Chester.

WATOTO

Watoto brings hope and healing to vulnerable women and children in Uganda and South Sudan. Watoto villages provide homes, families and holistic care to over 3000 children. 'Baby Watoto' rescues orphaned and abandoned babies giving them a bright future and the 'Watoto Neighbourhood Projects' return dignity to Africa's greatest resource, her women. God is at the centre of everything Watoto do.

Who are Watoto ?

Uganda back in the early 1980's was a broken country with significant challenges. In 1984 during a period of civil war Pastor Gary and Marilyn Skinner planted a local church in Kampala. Pastor Gary came from a missionary family in South Africa and Marilyn from a missionary family in Canada. They had three very young children at this time. Pastor Gary followed a very clear message from God to start an English speaking Church in downtown Kampala and this is what they did. They very much believe that it is the responsibility of the local church to solve community problems.

In 1988 the church responded to a clear calling from God to care for the widows and orphans.

James 1:27 "Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress."

The AIDS crisis was out of control. By 1994, Watoto were rescuing abandoned and orphaned children – RESCUE, RAISE, REBUILD and this year also saw the start of the Watoto Children's Choir.



Watoto (continued)

Choir 124 is currently touring the UK.

In 1996 the first Watoto village was built followed by another one 'Bbira' in 1998 and 'Suubi' in 2003. By 2007 it became clear that there was a real need for a separate 'Baby Watoto' to meet the specialized needs of *children rescued between the ages of 0–2 years old* and so in 2010 'Baby Watoto' was built within 'Suubi' village followed by 'Gulu Baby Watoto' .



Alongside the building of the villages 'Watoto Neighbourhood' was launched, to equip vulnerable women to care for themselves and their families.

EMBRACE, EMPOWER, ENGAGE; 'Watoto Neighbourhood' offers women a two year programme of adult literacy classes, discipleship, business skills training and job opportunities. It trains them in a skill that will enable them to support themselves and their family at the end – hair braiding, cooking, and looking after birds!

In 2012 'Watoto Church' in Juba, South Sudan was launched. In 2018 community care initiatives were launched in Juba including 'Watoto Neighbourhood' and '*KAGIS*' (*Keep a girl in school*).

'Watoto Church' now has 18 locations, there are 3 villages (Bbira, Suubi and Laminadera), 2 locations for 'Baby Watoto', 4 locations for Medical Needs, 3 Neighbourhood Locations and 4 Farm Locations. God is at the centre of everything they do. The vision for the future is to continue to lift up the name of Jesus and reach the lost and hurting in the communities.

Mark and Julia Lloyd recently spent time in Uganda volunteering with 'Baby Watoto'. We plan to return for four months later this year and would love to be able to take out much needed supplies of premature baby milk, nappies, bottles, and as much as they can fit into six suitcases.

Watoto (continued)

We are committed to paying for our own travel and accommodation, etc. during this 4 month stay. The fund raising will enable us to take out much needed supplies particularly for 'Baby Watoto' – premature baby milk, nappies, bottles, silicone bibs etc. We aim to take around 130 kg!!

Contributions would be much appreciated!

Mark & Julia Lloyd

(Lanchester, Co Durham)

If you wish to support Mark & Julia any donations can be passed on through Jim and Audrey Lloyd

BROWNIES

Dear Liverpool Road Methodist Church,

Sadly after Easter, we have made the difficult decision to merge temporarily with another Brownie unit. This is due to a reduction in Brownie numbers, along with some of our leaders beginning university and increased pressures connected to foster caring. Merging will allow us to continue offering the girls a full and active programme while we work to rebuild our numbers.

Thank you very much for allowing 63rd Southport Brownies to use your hall for our meetings. Your support has provided a safe and welcoming space for the girls, and we are truly grateful for the kindness you have shown us.

Our last meeting will be the 23rd March, 2026. I will arrange to clear out our cupboard and hand over the keys shortly after.

We deeply appreciate everything you have done for us, and if our situation improves, we very much hope to return in the future.

With sincere thanks,

Amanda Turner

63rd Southport Brownies.



Painting Pottery



Liverpool Road
Methodist Church

Saturdays

2.30pm-4pm

Final sessions on:

25th April

23rd May

27th June

