



Ainsdale Methodist Church

Weekly Notices

Minister: Rev Patrick Evans

Tel: 07813 211501

Email: [patrick.evans@](mailto:patrick.evans@methodist.org.uk)

methodist.org.uk



19th November 2023

11am Circuit Service at PPW (No Service Here)

**26th November - 9.45am Service at Ainsdale Village Church led
by Rev Patrick Evans**

- 6pm Raising Praise at Leyland Road Church

Mission Statement

*To share locally and globally in the whole Church's purpose of
the worship of God and the care of people.*

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.

Bible Study

Next session is on Monday, 20 November, from 7pm till 8.30pm, when we will be looking at Mark Chapter 12.
Everybody welcome!

Faith Lunch

Please join us for a Faith Lunch after our service on Sunday 3rd December. This will also be our opportunity to say farewell to Gill Hulme who, as many of you will know, is moving away from Ainsdale.

Ecumenical Prayer Meeting

7.30am Tuesdays in November at Lakeside Church.

Mid-week Prayers

Wednesdays at 10am. All welcome.

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.



Christmas Coffee Morning

Saturday 9th December 10am-12pm

There will be a raffle and bring and buy stall.

Carols provided by the church Vocal Group.

Donations of items for the food hamper can be left in a box by the organ.

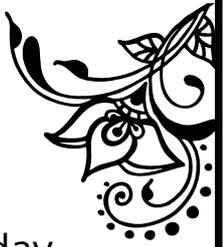
Also any other items suitable for the raffle are welcome!

Bakers this is your chance to shine! All contributions for the bring and buy on the day welcome!

Ainsdale Sand Dunes National Nature Reserve

The Ainsdale Sand Dunes National Nature Reserve (NNR), managed by Natural England, is part of the longest continuous sand dune system in England. It is a haven for rare species and a place for visitors to connect with nature. They'd like to hear from people local to Ainsdale and anyone who visits the sand dunes and National Nature Reserve. They've created a survey so you can easily tell them what you love and what you feel is important about the NNR.

<https://dynamicdunesapes.co.uk/2023/11/share-your-thoughts-ainsdale-sand-dunes-national-nature-reserve/>



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

