



Ainsdale Methodist Church

Weekly Notices

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10th December 2023

**10.45am Joint AAW Service with AVC led by Nigel Mawdsley
6pm CTiA Carols around the Tree**

**17th December - 10.45am Service led by Rev Patrick Evans
- 6.30pm Carols by Candlelight at Ainsdale Village 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 10th December 2023

Isaiah 40.1-11; Psalm 85.1-2,8-13; 2 Peter 3.8-15a; Mark 1.1-8

Prayer

God of all time and space, who are we, that you should come to us? Yet you have visited your people and redeemed us in your Son. As we prepare to celebrate his birth, make our hearts leap for joy at the sound of your word and move us by your Spirit to bless your wonderful works. We ask this through him whose coming is certain, whose day draws near, even your Son, Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

Bible Study

Advanced Notice: The Bible Study group are now having a break until the New Year and will meet again on Monday, 8 January 2024 at 7pm continuing with Mark Chapter 14.

Carols by Candlelight

Please note that the Carol Service on 17th December at Ainsdale Village Church will start at 6.30pm and not at 4pm as shown on the plan.

31st December

On 31st December morning worship will be a service of Carol Praise. If you have a favourite Carol that you would like included in the service please let me know. No guarantee of including every choice but I will do my best. Cynthia

Flowers

Our flowers this week have been kindly donated by Sylvia Winterburn in memory of her parents Ethel & Harry Taylor.

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.

Gift Day

The recent Gift Day has raised the magnificent sum of £3,445 which is gratefully received. A number of donations were Gift Aided so this figure will be increased when the claim has been made.

Additionally, we have received £4,523 from HM Revenue for Gift Aid donations in the last financial year. Sadly, this was not as much as the previous year when we received £5,888. With Gift Aid we receive 25p for every £ gifted. This can be donations (such as the gift day) and on church offerings. If you don't already subscribe to Gift Aid and wish to consider doing this, please speak to Peter, our treasurer.



Christmas Carols, Services & Events in Ainsdale



Tuesday 12 December

Advent Taize Prayer at 7pm at St John Stone Catholic Church

Saturday 16 December

Nativity Trail and Christmas Coffee Morning 11am-1pm at the Village Church

Sunday 17 December

Carols by Candlelight at 4pm at the Village Church

Monday 18 December

Christmas Carol Service at 7pm at Sacred Heart Catholic Church

Wednesday 20 December

Community Carol Concert, 2-3pm, performed by the children of St John's School, at St John's C of E

Saturday 23 December

Carol Singing at the Co-op for half an hour from 10am

Sunday 24 December

Crib Service at 4.30pm at St John's C of E - all families welcome

Sunday 24 December

Christmas Eve Holy Communion at 9.30pm with the Village Church at the Methodist Church Hall



Dear Friends



...as it is written in Isaiah the prophet: "I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way"—"a voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'"

(Mark Ch 1 vs 2-3)

This week our Advent focus is on John the Baptist who some describe as the last of the great prophets. Prophets often unwelcome as the spoke of an uncomfortable reality rooted in God that was not always to their listeners liking.

This week there were two news stories that caught my attention. The first was the former Prime Minister speaking at the Covid inquiry. The inquiry is currently exploring the core political and administrative governance and decision-making during Covid. One of the things that has struck me, not just from listening to Boris Johnson, but to other witnesses, has been the lack of someone in the machinery of government, set aside to consider the moral issues raised during the Covid crisis. We hear of discussions as to whether to let Covid rip through the country, verses the need to be cautious. There were even claims that some advocated that the elderly, who would suffer most, should be sacrificed for those younger in the population. There were obviously scientists, civil servants and politicians in the room(s), but who was the expert to offer the ballast on the moral implications? No one from what I can see. We have bishops and other faith leaders in the House of Lords who may have been able to provide such a voice; perhaps they are deemed irrelevant?

This week the government finally gave its response to the Hillsborough Independent Panel recommendations. The panel, you may recall, was headed by the The Right Reverend James Jones, then the Bishop of Liverpool, chosen for the role because he would be independent and deemed to be acceptable by all sides of the debate.

May people of faith, in whatever room they find themselves, be people who are able to bring a Kingdom of God perspective.

God bless

Patrick

