



Ainsdale Methodist Church

Weekly Notices

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17th December 2023

10.45am Service led by Rev Patrick Evans

6.30pm Carols by Candlelight at Ainsdale Village Church

24th December - 9.45am Service at Ainsdale Village Church

- 9.30pm Christmas Eve Communion with AVC & Liverpool Road led by Rev Patrick Evans

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 17th December 2023

Isaiah 61.1-4,8-11; Psalm 126; 1 Thessalonians 5.16-24; John 1.6-28

Prayer

God for whom we wait and watch, you sent your servant John the Baptist to prepare your people for the coming of the Messiah. Inspire the ministers and stewards of your truth to turn our disobedient hearts to you; that, when Christ shall come again in glory to be our judge, we may stand with confidence before him, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. 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 the daughters of Margaret Proctor in loving memory of their mum.

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.

Thank you

Thank you to everyone who donated to our Foodbank 'Christmas bags of cheer' appeal. The picture below shows the items that are included in the bags, which will start to be given out from Thursday 14th.

Thank you all once again.



Christmas Carols & Services in Ainsdale



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

Notices Next Week

Next weeks notices will be for 2 weeks, if anyone has any items for inclusion please let me know by the morning of Wednesday 20th at the very latest.

Thank you. Lucy.



Dear Friends



I am sure many of you in years gone by have attended midnight communion services on Christmas Eve. As traditions change its popularity has waned in recent times, and the timing isn't ideal for many.

A reminder, this year you can come and join us on Christmas Eve, in person or online, as we celebrate Holy Communion at 9.30pm at Ainsdale Methodist Church. The service is timed so that we celebrate Holy Communion just after 10pm, and in so doing will be welcoming Christmas Day in unity of spirit and time, with Christians in Bethlehem, for 10pm in the UK is 12 midnight in Bethlehem.

You can join online at <https://southportmethodist.org.uk/christmas/>.

If joining online and wishing to share in Holy Communion, and in line with Methodist tradition, have prepared a small glass of non alcoholic grape based drink (supermarkets sell such drinks) and a small piece of bread. The Service will not be available to watch online after the live stream has finished.

This will be the first time a virtual communion service has been held in the Circuit since the Methodist Conference adopted a period of discernment through until 31 August 2024, in which we are permitted to lead celebrations of Holy Communion in which some or all of the worshippers gather online. An extract from the report to the conference reads as follows:

Celebrating Holy Communion online will challenge the gathered community to ponder what it means to bring our whole authentic selves into worship, just as onsite worship does. Equally, the online world stands in need of the renewal of Christ in the same way as every other arena of human activity. Methodists have proudly emphasised that all without exception are offered the opportunity to experience God's freely given grace. To celebrate the Eucharist is to celebrate the redemptive work of Christ for all, including the world online.

After the service, if you have any feedback that we can share with the Conference, please email me at patrick.evans@methodist.org.uk.

God bless

Patrick

