



Ainsdale Methodist Church

Weekly Notices

Minister: Rev Patrick Evans

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21st January 2024

10.45am Service led by Rev Ernie Grimshaw

**28th January - 9.45am Service at Ainsdale Village Church
- 6pm Raising Praise at Leyland Road Church**

**4th February - 9am Circuit Communion Service at PPW
- 11am Circuit Service 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 21st January 2024

1 Samuel 3.1-10, (11-20); Psalm 139.1-6,13-18; 1 Corinthians 6.12-20; John 1.43-51

Prayer

Almighty God,
whose Son revealed in signs and miracles the wonder of your saving love:
renew all your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain
us by your mighty power; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Bible Study

Next session will be at 7pm on Monday, 22 January when we will be looking at
the last section of Mark chapter 14 - the arrival of Judas in the Garden of
Gethsemane.

Raising Praise

The next Raising Praise will be Sunday 28th January, 6.00pm at Leyland
Road. All welcome!



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.

Church Council Meeting

The next meeting is at 2pm on Wednesday 24th January 2024

WELCOME TO OUR WARM WINTER PICTURE HOUSE!

Free Film Fridays with hot drinks and snacks

**9 February
THE DUKE**



St John's C of E Church, Liverpool Road, Ainsdale
Film Show 2pm Doors Open 1.45pm

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

To mark the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity the Ainsdale Churches in CTiA are welcoming neighbouring churches to their mid-week morning prayer services as follows:

- Monday 23 January - 10am at Ainsdale Village Church**
- Tuesday 24 January - 10am at St John Stone Catholic Church**
- Wednesday 25 January - 10am at Ainsdale Methodist Church**
- Thursday 26 January - 10.30am at St John's C of E**

The invitation is open to everyone and we hope you will go to as many of these services as you can.



Dear Friends



Whilst on vacation it was wonderful to attend Paynes Bay Methodist Church in Barbados on Sunday 7th January, which was the occasion of their Covenant Service. I especially value the Covenant Service, so it was good that I could participate without being involved in leading the service.

There are set readings offered as part of the Covenant Service, and the preacher chose ones of these; the vine and the branches from John Ch 15.

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." (John Ch 15 vs 5)

Some translations have the word "abide" instead of "remain", which I find helpful. I think this weeks set gospel reading would also work well for a Covenant Service. It's the calling of the first disciples from Mark Ch 1 vs 14-20. In Mark's style the story moves at a fast pace.

"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." At once they left their nets and followed him. (Mark Ch 1 vs 17-18)

I wonder what lead-up the fishermen had prior to this moment. How much had they known of Jesus or heard him themselves? We are reminded in this passage that there comes a point of making a decision to follow the way of Jesus. In many ways this can be the relatively easy part, for what follows is living it out in our daily lives. And so too with the Covenant Prayer, which whilst challenging, is relatively easy to speak. The hard part comes in the lived reality.

The encouragement is that the disciples also struggle with living their commitment to Jesus' calling. In the courtyard the night before the crucifixion, warming himself before the fire, Peter threatens to give up a lifetime of fidelity for a moment of fear.

Having made the Covenant commitment, when struggles come through this year, may we reach out to God in the midst of our fears.

God bless

Patrick

