



*Ainsdale Methodist Church*

# Weekly Notices

*1st December 2024*

**10.45am** Communion Service led by Rev Derek Bowker  
**6pm** CTiA Carols Around The Tree

**8th December** - 10.45am Joint Parade Service with Ainsdale Village Church  
led by Lesley Goddard  
- 6.30pm Circuit Service at Liverpool 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.

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# *Lectionary Readings 1st December 2024*

Jeremiah 33.14-16; Psalm 25.1-10; 1 Thessalonians 3.9-13; Luke 21.25-36

## *Prayer*

Lord our God, keep us your servants alert and watchful as we await the return of Christ your Son, so that when he comes and knocks at the door he may find us vigilant in prayer, with songs of praise on our lips. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

## *Bible Study*

There will be two more Bible Study sessions this year looking at key passages from Acts.

These are both at 1.30pm on Wednesdays, 4th and 11th December.  
Come along if you're free then. Everybody welcome

## *Thank you*

Thank you so much for the lovely cards and prayers we received following Sandra's passing in June. Your kindness has meant so much to us during this difficult time.

Eric, Joanne & Mark.

## *Jennifer Collins*

It is with sadness that we announce the death of Jennifer Collins. Her funeral will be held at Southport Crematorium at 1pm on Monday 2nd December. All are welcome. Jennifer's funeral will be a celebration of her life and you are invited to dress accordingly.

## *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](mailto:lucy@southportmethodist.org.uk).

# *Bags of Christmas Cheer*

As in previous years we are planning to provide Bags of Christmas Cheer. These bags will be given as gifts to those people who come to the Foodbank in the weeks leading up to Christmas.

Each bag will have extra items of Christmas Fayre not provided in the usual bags of food from the Foodbank.

To make up the bags we would like donations of the following items.

- Christmas puddings (large or small)
  - Cartons or tins of custard.
  - Boxes of Mince pies.
  - Small Christmas cake portions.
- Yule logs or mini-cakes, (Christmas themed).
  - Tins of ham.
  - Savoury crackers.
  - Savoury snacks.
- Selection boxes or sweet treats.

Please leave any donations in the collection box in the lounge.  
Many thanks.



## *Christmas Coffee Morning*



We will be holding a Christmas coffee morning on  
Saturday 7th December, 10.00am - 12.30pm.

There will be a Raffle and a Christmas themed quiz during the morning.  
We would be grateful for any donations of raffle prizes. Please pass any items  
to a church steward. Thank you.

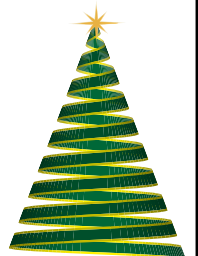
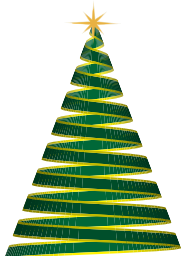
## *Churches Together in Ainsdale invite you to:*

Carols Around the Christmas Tree  
at Ainsdale Methodist Church

Refreshments served from 5pm onwards

Sunday 1st December 2024 at 6pm

Join us for Carols, Christmas Readings, and Reflections





Dear Friends

I received my first Christmas present list from a family member this week. I wonder what would be on your list and what gifts you are considering giving.

The best gifts are those that surprise us because we wouldn't indulge ourselves or even realise its what we really need.

The lectionary reading for the first Sunday of Advent from Luke 21:25-36 is a tad stark.

*"There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken." (Luke Ch 21 vs 25-27)*

It's been a tough year in so many ways with conflicts around the world, environmental devastation and local tragedies. I wonder if for many those words from Luke resonate.

Our Gospel reading is paired with 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13, where Paul writes to the people of Thessaloniki.

*How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. (1 Thessalonians Ch 3 vs 9-10)*

Imagine receiving that letter, of people thanking God for you and praying earnestly that they may meet with you to restore your faith.

One headline this week read "I lost my faith in the world". The person went onto say "I try to resemble it as us being connected by an invisible piece of string. We're all connected in the most horrible way. Sometimes that string will fray and tangle and knot, but at the best of times, it will wrap together and it's brought a lot of us closer, creating kindness and warmth."

I wonder whether this year, the most precious gift we can give is our time to someone else, to let them know we thank God for them, and in so doing, going someway to restoring their faith in the world...what a precious gift that would be.

God bless  
Patrick