



Ainsdale Methodist Church

Weekly Notices



8th December 2024

10.45am Joint Parade Service with Ainsdale Village Church led by Lesley Goddard

6.30pm Circuit Service at Liverpool Road Church

15th December - 9am Circuit Communion Service at PPW

- 10.45am Service 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.

Minister: Rev Patrick Evans

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Lectionary Readings 8th December 2024

Malachi 3.1-4; Luke 1.68-79 (Benedictus); Philippians 1.3-11; Luke 3.1-6

Prayer

God of all holiness, your promises stand unshaken through all generations and you lift up all who are burdened and brought low: renew our hope in you, as we wait for the coming in glory of Jesus Christ, our Judge and our Saviour, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.

Bible Study

There will be one more Bible Study session this year looking at key passages from Acts.

1.30pm on Wednesday 11th December.

Come along if you're free then. Everybody welcome

Ainsdale Village Singers present

Christmas Cracker

A concert of festive music

"Led by" Stewart Hankinson,

Accompanist Brenda Redmond

Soloist: Katie Lang on French horn

Sunday, December 15th at 2pm

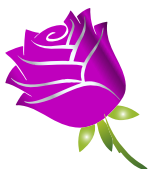
Liverpool Rd Methodist Church

Birkdale, PR8 4PD

Tickets £8 incl light refreshments

Tickets available from Steve: 07760380265

or choir members.



Flowers

Our flowers this week have been kindly donated by Richard Atkins in memory of Evelyn on her birthday.





Christmas at Ainsdale Methodist Church

Carols by Candlelight
Sunday 22nd December 4pm

Midnight Communion
Christmas Eve 24th December 11.30pm



Churches Together in Ainsdale at Christmas

If you find it hard to embrace the usual Christmas celebrations, you may find 'The Longest Night Service' at the Village Church, taking place at 4 o'clock on Saturday 21st December, to be a more meaningful way to mark the season.

The Village Church will hold their annual *Christmas Christingle* at 4 o'clock on Christmas Eve. Everyone welcome.

We'll be carol singing again inside the Co-op on Christmas Eve morning for half an hour from 10 o'clock. Come and join in - the more the merrier!

A Reflection for Advent

In Mathew chapter 1 verses 20 and 21 we read;

But after he had considered this , the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said "Joseph Son of David , do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

The rescue mission of Jesus is hidden in plain sight. It's there both obviously and subtly in his name . Everyone around at the time knew Jesus' name meant 'God Saves' or ' The Lord of Salvation ' . Among his contemporaries, the name Jesus was pretty common, much as it is in the Spanish speaking world today. So, as well as a special name describing God 's rescue, Jesus was in fact a very down to earth name . There are other Jesus's in the New Testament, including Jesus called Justus (Colossians 4:11) and Jesus Barabbas (Mathew 27:16) so this Jesus, referred to as ' Jesus of Nazareth ' to distinguish him from others, is the only Jesus who would truly live up to his name. God 's people longed for a rescue plan which was desperately needed, and they thought they knew what it should look like, including the military removal of Roman rule across their land. They weren't expecting it to look like the down to earth birth of this Jesus to this young couple from Nazareth.

But the most expected answer is often not the most needed answer.

This Advent, it is amazing to contemplate that God has totally fulfilled his rescue promises in Christ Jesus , and can still do so today in unexpected ways .

There's a lesson for us here, even when we call on God's help, we can easily write our own script as to how exactly God's rescue plan should play out. The unexpected rescue of the Christ child at Christmas reminds us to lay aside our preferences and timing. In everyday situations, when concerns and challenges come up we're invited to seek and join in God's rescue story, not our own.

God Bless

Sally