



Ainsdale Methodist Church

Weekly Notices



12th January 2025

10.45am Joint Parade Service with Ainsdale Village Church led by Rev Patrick Evans

6.30pm Circuit Service at Liverpool Road Church

19th January - 9am Circuit Service at PPW

- 10.45am Service led by Richard Cowan

Image: Luke 3.15-17,21-22

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 12th January 2025

Isaiah 43.1-7; Psalm 29; Acts 8.14-17; Luke 3.15-17,21-22

Prayer

Eternal Father, at the Baptism of Jesus you revealed him to be your Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful to their calling as your people; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Sad News

Richard Atkins, Local Preacher from Ainsdale died on Thursday 19th December 2024. There will be a Service of Thanksgiving for Richard's life at 12.45 on Tuesday 14th January at Ainsdale Methodist Church; all are welcome (and to wear a hint of red if you wish). The service will be live streamed via <https://obit.video/richard-atkins/>.

Jill Conlon, when she lived in Southport, was a Worship Leader at Leyland Road and then at Ainsdale, although latterly upon moving to Crosby worshipped at Linacre Mission. Jill died the weekend before Christmas. There will be a memorial service for Jill Conlon, we will advise of a date in due course.

Join Kelly's Slimming World Group

Sessions take place every **Friday at 5:30 pm and 7:00 pm**, offering a flexible and sustainable way to enjoy real food, improve your health, and boost your confidence.

Special joining offers are available, including FREE joining for church or activity attendees. For more information, contact Kelly at 07493 078193 or visit her Facebook page, Slimming World Ainsdale with Kelly.

Make 2025 your year of success!

Mid-week Prayers

Wednesdays at 10am. All welcome.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

18th-25th January 2025

During this annual national week we are invited to share with Churches Together in Ainsdale and join the morning prayers at each of the churches in Ainsdale as follows:

Monday 20 Jan - 10.30am at Ainsdale Village Church

Tuesday 21 Jan - 10am at St John Stone Catholic Church

Wednesday 22 Jan - 10am here at Ainsdale Methodist Church

Thursday 23 Jan - 10.30am at St John's C of E

In a spirit of unity, please come to as many as you can.

Dear Friends,

Someone recommended a book of poetry to me that has a Christian slant, and in the book, given we have just turned the page on another year, I came across the poem below.

I love the way it talks about ringing out the old and ringing in the new, and it got me thinking about what do we want to release from last year that God would not want us to be burdened with carrying forward into the new year. At the same time what do we want to ring in. There are some things that burden us, and other things that enliven us. I am sure God would have us focus on what enlivens us rather than burdens us.

The poem was published in 1850, although Tennyson began to write it following the death of a close friend some seventeen years earlier, and as the years passed he kept refining it based on his experiences, in fact this is a shortened version. The world was a very different place and in many ways much unfairer than today. Equality did not exist, nor did universal education or a welfare state of any note, much needed factory reforms were yet to be introduced.

The poem ends with the words, "Ring in the Christ that is to be". It reminds me of the words we say at communion, "Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again". In many ways as I read the poem I think that life has not changed.

It talks of "civic slander and the spite", which today is very much present in social media. I read the poem as a prayer, calling upon God to ring out that which is not from him, and to ring in that which is from him; and to ring in Christ, the saviour of the world.

What do you ring out from last year? What do ring in this new year? May we in the world today be ringers of the bells to herald the way of our Lord Jesus Christ.

God bless

Patrick

In Memoriam CVI Alfred Lord Tennyson

Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,
The flying cloud, the frosty light:
The year is dying in the night;
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.

Ring out the want, the care, the sin,
The faithless coldness of the times;
Ring out, ring out my mournful rhymes
But ring the fuller minstrel in.

Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring, happy bells, across the snow:
The year is going, let him go;
Ring out the false, ring in the true.

Ring out false pride in place and blood,
The civic slander and the spite;
Ring in the love of truth and right,
Ring in the common love of good.

Ring out the grief that saps the mind
For those that here we see no more;
Ring out the feud of rich and poor,
Ring in redress to all mankind.

Ring out old shapes of foul disease;
Ring out the narrowing lust of gold;
Ring out the thousand wars of old,
Ring in the thousand years of peace.

Ring out a slowly dying cause,
And ancient forms of party strife;
Ring in the nobler modes of life,
With sweeter manners, purer laws.

Ring in the valiant man and free,
The larger heart, the kindlier hand;
Ring out the darkness of the land,
Ring in the Christ that is to be.