

Thank you for your welcome! Judith and I were glad to see so many folk present at the Circuit Welcome Service at PPW on 7th September and I was delighted my eldest daughter Abigail and her fiancé Liam were also able to join us, together with a few friends from along life's journey, people from my University days in Lancaster and some colleagues from ministry in County Durham.



**Rev. Christopher Humble
Circuit Superintendent**

Of course, the stationing of myself as Superintendent happened by a standing vote in the Methodist Conference in July (for which I was not in attendance) when that governing body adopted the stations for the year ahead. So, the welcome in Methodist terms is not an induction or a licensing like some of our ecumenical partners are used to. It was however a thoroughly ecumenical affair with goodly numbers of representatives from other denominations in the town present (Roman Catholic, Church of England, Baptist) and The Revd's. Rachel Bray, Pat Willis and myself made promises about working closely together in the two LEP's I am directly engaged in (PPW and St Francis). I look forward to getting to know the folk around the circuit and forging new relationships with new people in all the places that are new to me. The stations also show an incoming supernumerary, namely Neil Stiubbens who isn't of course new to you at all, but he has "sat down" was we quaintly call it (the word supernumerary is of course Latin meaning literally over the number - extra to the number of ministers stationed in the Circuit- a little like the milkman leaving you extra pints of milk that you never ordered!). Neil has sat down from travelling as we also quaintly say (a phrase referring back to John Wesley and his preachers on horses). We wish Neil all the every blessing in this new phase of ministry. In a similar vein two of our Local Preachers have sat down from going round the circuit taking services, and we thank Derek Taberner from Liverpool Road church and Richard Cowan from Cornerstone for their ministry among us over the

years and wish them well as they "sit down" from this ministry.

We are all, of course, committed, every single one of us, I hope, to life-long discipleship of Christ and sitting down from activities may allow us to spend time on other things or explore new avenues that we just haven't found the time for before in our busy lives. We are life-long learners and there are always things to learn as we seek out opportunities to grow and develop as Christian disciples.

It may well be the case that the "sitting down" of some of our preachers leaves us stretched even further than we have been and we may need to think about how we recruit new preachers, as well as how we creatively use the Worship Leaders we have among us in Local Arrangements and other ways.

I was pleasantly surprised to discover at Cornerstone a bill-sticker's poster from 1842 advertising the visit to Churchtown of one of the founders of the Primitive Methodist Connexion, namely Hugh Bourne (although his surname was spelled incorrectly). In 41 years of preaching I don't think I have ever followed in such illustrious footsteps! PTO.

It was of particular interest to me as I have been the Chair of the North East Methodist History Society (affiliated to the Wesley Historical Society) up to moving here. I have a bit of a passion for things historical, just to warn you! (my 5x great grandfather gets a mention in John Wesley's

The Mission of the Southport Methodist Circuit is to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ by inspiring, encouraging, resourcing and enabling the people and churches of the Circuit to serve and transform their communities and the wider world.

journal. He was a local preacher and he built the first Wesleyan chapel in Whitby and was taken by John Wesley himself to the Methodist Conference in 1784!).

At our recent Circuit Meeting we heard the progress report on our efforts to employ two new lay employees; one working with Children under 11 and the other working with Young People 11-18 across the circuit building on the work that is already started. These role descriptions have gone to the District for approval. Please pray that God will bless our efforts and the right gifted people may be directed to apply for these new and exciting posts. We gave a grant to Schools Workers' Trust (£7500 from circuit funds and £2500 from local Methodist churches underwritten by the circuit) for the year ahead in support of their work, and also gave a £15000 grant to Compassion Acts to support their valuable work in response to their request for assistance.

We gave heard responses about the Listening Events and recognise that there is more work to do in this field. Local churches are being encouraged to think about which other churches they might partner with if we were to reduce the number of managing trustee bodies (church councils) as we try to reduce the burden of governance and find new ways of doing things, whilst keeping our eye on the ball in terms of mission opportunities.

We heard that a profile has been submitted into the Stationing process and we hope that a presbyter might be found for leading the work at Ainsdale, Lord Street West, Russell Road and sharing

ministry at Formby alongside The Rev'd. Sheila Prest. We also heard that Lord Street West (which is a URC/Methodist LEP) are now in a shared ministry and we gave our blessing to apply for authorised status for The Revd Hilary Smith to work among us in a more formal way.

In the words of Joseph Hart let us praise God "for all that is past and trust him for all that's to come"

With love and prayers,

Chris



Tickets £10 in aid of the Development Fund from Doreen Goulding, Church Steward or ALL Office 01704 574838.



October 25th, November 22nd Christmas Party 13th December and Fundraiser on October 11th Contact Caroline Broadhurst 07967 971484



an uplifting evening of Celtic Christian music
Sun 23 Nov 2025
6:30 pm - 9:00 pm

[Tickets](#)



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Join us for a fantastic musical fundraiser with the superb G:Force Gospel Choir

**Friday 3rd October
7.30pm at PPW**

Tickets £8 (£4 for under 16's)
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St Philip & St Paul with Wesley, Scarisbrick New Rd PR8 6QF
Stppw.office@gmail.com

PPW
St Philip & St Paul with Wesley



HESKETH BANK

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Lord Street West Church

Saturday 18th October 7.30pm

'At the Movies' an evening of light music from the world of film.

Tickets: Wendy Aspin 01704 224 350, on the door or from Ticket source.



Tickets



Open Day hosted by Light Foundation & Southport Mosque to show appreciation for your support during a challenging year for our community.

[Tickets](#)

Join us for ****Visit My Mosque Day**** on ****Sunday, 5th October 2024****, at ****Southport Mosque****, from ****3pm to 6pm****. This event is open to everyone, and we warmly welcome our local community and partner agencies to come.

