



*Ainsdale Methodist Church*

# Weekly Notices

*8th March 2026*

**10.45am** Joint Parade Service with AVC led by Nigel Mawdsley

**6.30pm** Circuit Service at Liverpool Road Church

**15th Mar** - 9am Circuit Service of Holy Communion at PPW

- 10.45am Service led by Rev Derek Bowker

*Image: John 4.5-42*

## **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 8th March 2026*

Exodus 17.1-7; Psalm 95; Romans 5.1-11; John 4.5-42  
(Year A - Lent 3)

## *Prayer*

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

## *Bible Study*

Bible Study is continuing on a fortnightly basis, with the next session taking place on Monday 9th March at 7pm at Cynthia and Frank's (17 Everton Road).

All are welcome.

## *Gardening Club*

Every Monday at 10am, meet in the church lounge. New faces are always welcome and no experience is needed. Enjoy some fresh air, friendly conversation and time in the garden, followed by tea, coffee and refreshments. Everyone is very welcome.

## *Mid-week Prayers*

Wednesdays at 10am. All welcome.

## *Churches Together in Ainsdale Lent Course*

### **Week 4**

2.00 pm: "Rewrite the Stars"

Tuesday 10th March at St. John's Stone Catholic Church

# Churches Together in Ainsdale

With the help of Shoreside Hookers CTiA are hoping to put out lots of little knitted/crocheted hearts in Ainsdale Village on Easter Sunday morning. The more there are, the greater the impact, so we are asking everyone who can to please knit or crochet a small heart. (There are printed copies of knitting and crochet patterns in the church porch).

The bible verse, John 3:16, will be attached to each heart to let whoever takes one know that each one of us is loved.

You can use any wool and any colour or combinations of colour. If you have spare wool please leave it in the box in the church porch for other people to use. You can leave your finished hearts there too or give them to Ann Howard before 22nd March.

Thank you.

## Ainsdale Lunch & Leisure

### WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

#### Monday

Guitar Lessons: 10.00 - 12.00

Fit 4 Life: 10.00 - 11.00

Gardening Club: 10.00 - 11.00

Monday Social: 13.00 - 15.00

Family History: 13.00 - 15.00

Technology Support: 13.00 - 15.00

NB. Family History & Technology Support are One-To-One Sessions. Advance booking essential.

#### Tuesday

Ukulele: 10.00 - 12.00

Tai-Chi (Chair based): 11.00 - 12.00

Music for All: 13.00 - 15.00

Tai-Chi: 14.15 - 15.45

#### Wednesday

Indoor Bowls: 13.00 - 15.00

Table Tennis: 13.00 - 15.00

#### Thursday

Art & Craft: 10.00 - 12.00

Vital Motion: 9.45 - 10.45

(Chair-Based)

Vital Motion: 10.50 - 11.50

(Chair-Based)

#### Friday

Needlecraft: 10.00 - 12.00

FREE TASTER SESSIONS AVAILABLE FOR ALL ACTIVITIES

**Any enquiries or bookings please call the ALL office 01704 574838.**

## Church Notices

If you have any items you want including in the notices, please advise Lucy Lloyd on 01704 536648 or email [lucy@southportmethodist.org.uk](mailto:lucy@southportmethodist.org.uk) Thank you.

Dear Friends

To ease your journey what do you need to leave behind?

When undertaking a long distance cycle ride last year I took with me a bike bag for the flight home. I wasn't confident I would be able to get such a bag at my destination. Although sold as a light weight bag, it was still pretty heavy, so a couple of days in I ditched it. I could feel the difference immediately, it was like having another gear!

As we travel through Lent it can be a time to let go and discard what might otherwise hinder us. The stories of Nicodemus and the Samaritan women can be an encouragement to us.

Firstly, there is the contrast between them as they encounter Jesus. Nicodemus is part of the ruling elite, he is educated, a teacher and respected in his community, he is a man and a Jew. By comparison she is a woman and a Samaritan, an outsider with a shameful past. Their backgrounds remind us that regardless of our social standing or past lives, we are all in need of God's grace, and God's grace is for all.

Jesus uses irony with them to make a point. With Nicodemus it's the concept of being born again; with the Samaritan woman it's the concept of living water quenching her spiritual thirst.

Secondly, having encountered Jesus, both leave something behind.

Nicodemus comes to Jesus at night so he isn't seen by anyone. He didn't want to be embarrassed or outed for having hung out with Jesus. By the time it comes to Jesus' death, it is Nicodemus, with Joseph, who in plain sight takes his body to the tomb for burial, with enough myrrh and aloes for embalming that would only be used for a royal burial. Nicodemus left behind his fear of being associated with Jesus.

When the woman left Jesus at the well and returned to the City to tell people of him, she left behind her water jar. Presumably because she wanted to tell people about Jesus immediately and to carry the jar would slow her down. Her priority moved from earthy things (physical water) to spiritual things (living water).

To ease your journey what do you need to leave behind?

God bless

Patrick