



*Ainsdale Methodist Church*

# Weekly Notices

*28th June 2026*

**10am** Service at Ainsdale Village Church

**6pm** Circuit Raising Praise at Leyland Road Church

**5th July** - 10am CTiA Tent Service

*Image: Matthew 10.40-42*

## **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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**[methodist.org.uk](http://methodist.org.uk)**

# Lectionary Readings 28th June 2026

Genesis 22:1-14; Psalm 13; Romans 6.12-23; Matthew 10.40-42  
(Year A)

## Prayer

Lord of heaven and earth, you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and power of your Church. Sow in our hearts the seeds of your grace that we may bear the fruit of the Spirit, in love and joy and peace;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

## Bible Study

The next meeting is at church on Monday, 29th June, from 7 till 8.30pm when we will be looking at Isaiah chapter 43.

Everyone is welcome.

## Mid-week Prayers

Wednesdays at 10am. All 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.

## Church Notices

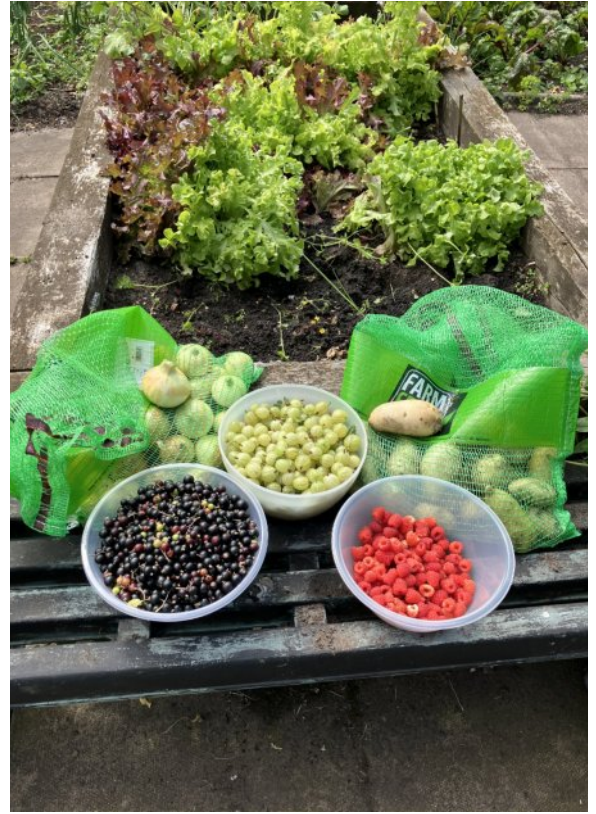
If you have any items you want including in the notices, please advise Lucy Lloyd on 01704 536648 or email [lucy@southportmethodist.org.uk](mailto:lucy@southportmethodist.org.uk) Thank you.

# Our First Harvest of the Season!

We're delighted to share our first harvest of the season from the church garden, including new potatoes, onions and delicious summer fruits.

The garden is open to everyone, and we'd love to encourage anyone who is interested to come along and get involved. Whether it's planting, watering, weeding or harvesting, there's always something to do, and everyone is welcome—no experience needed!

If you attend Ainsdale Lunch & Leisure, you'll even have the opportunity to enjoy some of the freshly harvested produce as part of the lunch menu.



Circuit Service to mark the

## Retirement

of

### Rev Patrick Evans

Join us as we say our farewells  
to Patrick as his ministry as a  
Circuit Minister comes to an end.



Sunday  
26th July



4pm



Ainsdale  
Methodist Church

Everyone is invited

The service will be followed by a faith tea.



Dear Friends

Are you enjoying or enduring the World Cup? There is a big influence between Christian discipleship and sport as Paul noted:

*Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. Therefore I do not run like someone running aimlessly; I do not fight like a boxer beating the air.*

*(1 Corinthians Ch 9 vs 24-26)*

By Tudor times, a form of football was being played, even Henry VIII had a pair of football boots, although clerics were dismissive. In 1531 the Puritan preacher, Thomas Eliot, argued that football caused "bestly fury and extreme violence". In 1572 the Bishop of Rochester demanded a new campaign to suppress this "evil game". In his book, Anatomy of Abuses (1583) Philip Stubbs argued that "football...withdraweth us from godliness, either upon the Sabbath or any other day."

Attitudes towards football began to change in the early 19th century. Thomas Arnold, headmaster of Rugby, emphasised the importance of sport in young men's education stating games like football provided a "formidable vehicle for character building". In the latter half of the 19th century, the concept of Muscular Christianity was especially influential, which promoted the belief that the Christian faith should be active, courageous and practical. They argued that a Christian man should be strong in body, mind and spirit. This coincided with a growth of inner city squalor. One historian noted the only escape was drink, which led too often to mass scraps and "hungry and shoddily clad children whose fathers had squandered the family's entire food and clothing allowance on ale".

Anna Connell, 25-year-old daughter of Arthur, the rector of St Mark's Church in Gorton, persisted with establishing a working men's group for local youths, who in 1880 formed a football team that eventually became Manchester City. Many churches did likewise from which many professional teams can trace their roots such as Aston Villa, Barnsley, Birmingham City, Bolton Wanderers, Everton (and by association Liverpool), Fulham, Northampton Town, QPR, Southampton and Spurs.

In the USA an advert promoting Jesus has been airing during half time of some World Cup games, it can be viewed via <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SII-YWHd9do>

Where is God's presence in football (and other sports) today?

God bless  
Patrick