



SOUTHPORT METHODIST CIRCUIT

Circuit News

June 2026

Dear Friends,

With Chris enjoying a well-deserved holiday, it falls to me and Ernie to share with you this month.

We've just celebrated Pentecost Sunday, often referred to as the birthday of the Church. It's amazing how the church has developed in the last 2,000 years through the movement of the Holy Spirit, and this continues to this day. As part of the preparation for the various Church Council Listening Event meetings, it has been interesting to learn about how our Local Ecumenical Partnerships were formed and how they are constituted. As an example, I used to think of Lord Street West United Church as a merger of two churches, when in fact it is two churches working in partnership on a single site, namely Lord Street United Reformed Church and Duke Street Trinity Methodist Church. Many of you will say, "But Duke Street Trinity Methodist Church closed 50 years ago!"; we forget that it was the building that closed and not the Church. We get so hung up, myself included, on the building being the Church, rather than the Church being the gathered people. The church on the day of Pentecost was a diverse group of people brought together by the power of the Holy Spirit into a movement—they had no buildings, quinquennial inspections, or insurances to arrange! Such movements are God-breathed through the Holy Spirit and have a life and vigour all of their own. Often the Holy Spirit is likened to a blowing wind—at times blustering and fast, at other times gentler and cooling—but it is still the same Spirit moving. Nothing is static, and we hope and pray that the Church globally and locally will continue to change and be morphed through the power of the Holy Spirit in its mission to bring forth the Good News.

In other news, the invitation process for 2026 came to an end in May and we were not matched with a new minister. From September 2026, Chris, Ernie, and Sheila will be our complement of ministers (remembering that Chris is full-time and Ernie and Sheila are part-time). The re-invitation process for 2027 has commenced for Ernie and Sheila, and the outcome of this, together with being unsuccessful in 2026, will shape our profile for a new minister (or



Revd. Patrick Evans

ministers) in 2027. Please remember Ernie and Sheila in your prayers at this time.

Finally, to make sure I go, there will be a leaving service at 4pm on Sunday 26th July at Ainsdale Methodist Church, followed by a faith tea for those who are able to stay... feel free to bring something to share. By the way, I strictly do not want a personal leaving gift; rather, I'm doing one last charity bike ride in September and will be seeking sponsorship to support local charities—this is the gift I'd really value.

Details of the ride and sponsorship arrangements will follow.

God bless,

Patrick



Warm Welcome @ PPW
1st Tuesday of the month: 10-11.45am

Coffee, tea, biscuits, activities
Short input from different community speakers

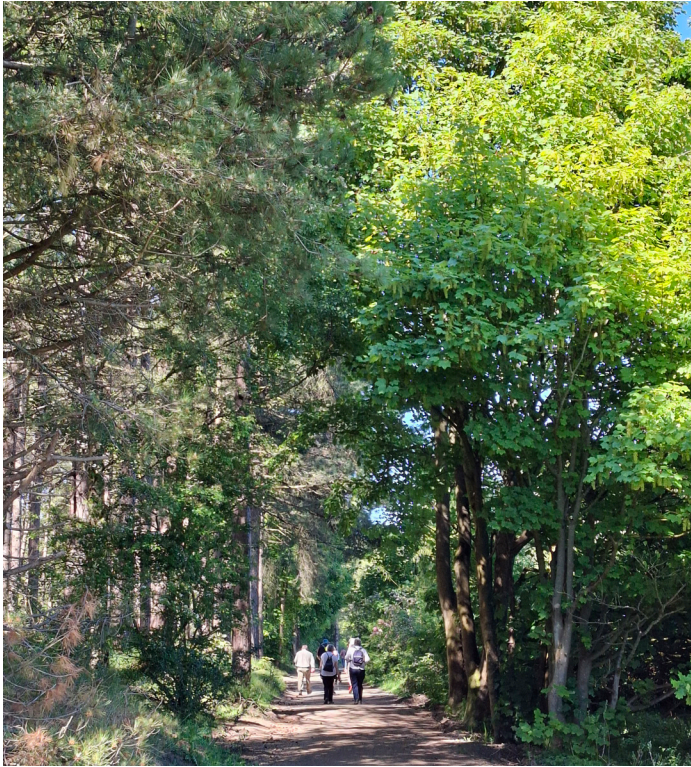
Warm
Welcoming
Free
Safe

PPW
St Philip & St Paul with Wesley
Corner of Scarisbrick New Rd/Hampton Rd PR8 6QF

Warm Welcome Openness

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.

Pentecost and Aldersgate Sunday Pilgrimage Walk



Pentecost is about the coming of the Holy Spirit in Acts chapter 2 where the disciples were transformed when the Holy Spirit came upon them, leading to the birth of the Christian Church.

The Holy Spirit, is sometimes described as ‘the shy member of the Trinity’ because He appears reluctant to talk about Himself. He keeps Himself very much in the background, but In reality the Holy Spirit is anything but shy. His reticence about focusing on Himself is not due to shyness but to His commitment to turning the spotlight on the face of Christ, revealing to us the way of salvation through faith in Christ’s sacrificial death on the cross for our sins.

The Bible does however contain a wealth of revelation about Him. A lack of understanding of the Person and ministry of the Holy Spirit will impoverish our Christian faith and could stunt our spiritual growth. To understand more about Him is to understand more about God Himself and that knowledge will strengthen our faith and make us more spiritually fruitful.

The benediction most used in Christian circles includes the phrase, “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.’ Note the steps: the grace of Jesus Christ, introduces you to the love of God, which results in you enjoying the fellowship of the Holy Spirit.

Talking of fellowship, our Southport Circuit enjoyed our pilgrimage walk from Formby MC to Ainsdale MC on Pentecost and Aldersgate Sunday. In total, 32 pilgrims and 2 dogs finished the walk with an age range of 10 months to over 90 years of age! During the walk, we were encouraged to reflect on the words of John Wesley who said,

“I am not afraid that the people called Methodists should ever cease to exist either in Europe or America. But I am afraid lest they should only exist as a dead sect, having the form of religion without the power. And this undoubtedly will be the case unless they hold fast both the doctrine, spirit, and discipline with which they first set out.”

Friends from the Circuit were waiting to welcome the pilgrims with tea and cakes as we arrived, some still walking and others getting a lift from Ainsdale station where they had left their cars. Thankfully, nobody needed our emergency taxi service provided by Rev Sheila Prest who was on hand with her car at three points along the walk just in case...


The success of this pilgrimage has led me to think that we can build on this for next year. So watch this space :-)

Revd. Ernie Grimshaw

7:30 PM ● **FRIDAY 5TH JUNE 2026**

An Evening of
CHORAL MUSIC

WITH

 **Aughton**
Male Voice Choir

St Francis of Assisi Church
68 Folkestone Road,
Kew, PR8 5PH

Tickets £10
Call Gareth: 07885464041

Facets, Pottery, Library and The Guild

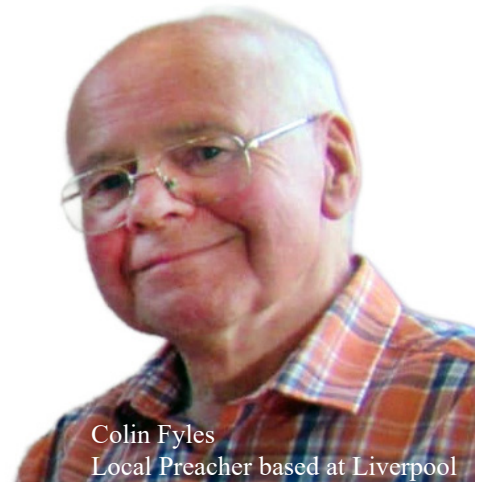
**Colin Fyles talks about
community engagement at
Liverpool Road Methodist Church**

Facets is a program primarily aimed at older adults in the Birkdale area, modeled somewhat after the University of the Third Age. It runs during the school terms, from September to Christmas and January to Easter, and offers a variety of classes and activities. These include music for pleasure, discussion groups, beginner and advanced guitar lessons, table tennis, and several exercise classes. There is also an 'active retirement' group that sometimes hosts guest speakers or organizes local outings. The program is very inclusive, with around 70 participants, most of whom are not regular churchgoers, and some who attend other denominations. The cost is £15 per term, which covers multiple activities, tea, and biscuits, making it very affordable. Facets also organizes monthly coffee mornings during the summer and an annual holiday, usually at a Warner Hotel, though rising costs have affected attendance. The program is seen as a gentle introduction to church life and has helped build relationships and reduce loneliness among participants.

The pottery classes, initiated by Caroline Broadhurst and the vicar at St. John's, were developed as a response to local incidents and a desire to reach out to young families. Held monthly at both Liverpool Road and St. John's, these sessions have grown rapidly, now attracting between 70 and 100 people, including parents and children. The classes involve decorating pre-made unglazed pots, which are then sealed and taken home. The success of the pottery classes is attributed in part to effective social media promotion by church members, and the sessions have been praised for their therapeutic value and the opportunity they provide for building relationships between church members and the wider community. There are plans to showcase the children's creations in a church service.

A new library has been established in partnership with the local community, following the closure of Birkdale library. The library, initially set up in the old Station Master's house, has expanded into rooms at Liverpool Road due to its popularity. This partnership has also led to the development of a community workshop, inspired by the 'men's shed' concept, where people can come together to make things and socialize. A made-to-measure type of shipping container has been installed to store all the necessary equipment.

The church also runs a food pantry every Wednesday, managed by Sally Eyes our Circuit Outreach Worker and Anne Higgins. Unlike a traditional food bank, the pantry is designed to help people learn to shop and make choices, offering a large amount of food



Colin Fyles
Local Preacher based at Liverpool

for a small fee (£5). Clients are referred from food banks, and the pantry serves as a step towards greater independence. While waiting, clients can engage in activities like jigsaws and crafts, and the initiative has successfully integrated some clients into church life, with one even becoming the church caretaker.

The Guild, formerly known as the Wesley Guild, meets on Tuesday evenings and is notable for being a mixed-gender group. Its meetings rotate between devotional, educational, Christian service, and social themes, providing a welcoming entry point for newcomers to the church community. Activities include talks, quizzes, and opportunities for fellowship.

Funding for these activities comes from a mix of participant fees, grants, and church contributions. The pottery classes, for example, received grants and church support to cover the cost of materials. The church also generates income by renting out space to groups like Slimming World and the library.

Building maintenance is handled by a dedicated group of volunteers, including some elderly but very active members, who meet regularly to keep the facilities in good condition. While there are no current youth groups like Boys' Brigade, the Girls' Brigade remains active, and the church continues to look for ways to expand its outreach.

Overall, Liverpool Road and St. John's Birkdale are deeply engaged in serving their local community through a diverse range of activities, fostering inclusion, support, and relationship-building among people of all ages and backgrounds.

Facets
Starts again in September

Pottery 4th Saturday of the month.

Library Opening
Monday 10am 12.30pm
Wednesday 10am to 4pm
Friday 10am to 1pm



Say It With Flowers

A group for fellowship, creativity and fun with flowers.

- Entertaining stories
- A witness of our faith
- Tips on basic flower arranging
- Relaxing music
- Homemade refreshments

Led by Izy Liston in the Coffee Lounge
Leyland Road Methodist Church

Thursday afternoons, 2 - 4pm

All are very welcome –
feel free to bring a friend

Programme

June 25th
“Everything Beautiful in Its Time”
A celebration of June bursting out all over

July 30th
“Fearfully & Wonderfully Made”
A look at flowers in the Bible



Roundelay Choir

CELEBRATING **40TH** ANNIVERSARY

IN CONCERT

at
LEYLAND ROAD METHODIST CHURCH

MONDAY 13TH JULY
7.30PM

In aid of **Queenscourt** Registered Charity 518891
where life is for living...
YOUR DONATION SUPPORTS LOCAL PATIENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES
Thank you for helping make every moment matter

NO TICKETS – DONATIONS TO QUEENSCOURT on the door

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT



Afternoon Tea

Saturday 6th June • 2pm
Cornerstone Methodist Church Hall
£10 per person • With entertainment

TICKETS

Tickets are available from
Joyce 07964 387376
Stan 07970 225067

Please inform of any dietary requirements



A World of Music

Octave Choir

With
The Ukrainian Harmony Choir
And Guests

Sunday 7th June 2026
2:30pm
Sacred Heart Church Ainsdale

Tickets £7
From Choir Members

Or email
nymanman@yahoo.co.uk