

Dear Friends,

We celebrated the ministry of Patrick Evans at the end of July and continue to wish him every blessing as he sits down. We hope his bike ride to Santiago de Compostela can take place and the accompanying fund raising for Compassion Acts & Queenscourt Hospice. Please do support, if you can, these two very worthwhile causes by way of appreciation for Patrick's ministry among us.

We begin the new Connexional Year with one presbyter less than last September, as no replacement for Patrick was obtained through our stationing processes. However, we are not down-hearted. Throughout the Summer the Circuit Stewards and myself have been beavering away at a plan! I am sure you already know, for this coming year (1 Sept 2026-31 Aug 2027) we have made some changes and Ernie Grimhsaw has taken on the pastoral charge of Cornerstone and Russell Road. Chris Humble has taken on the pastoral charge of Ainsdale and Lord Street West (which he shares with his URC colleague Hilary Smith). Sheila Prest continues to serve at Formby. Rachel Bray continues to serve at PPW with Chris. The Revd Pat Willis has now stepped down from her role at St Francis and I am grateful that The Revd Mike Griffin (another retired Anglican priest) continues to serve there alongside myself and the lay leadership team. We thank Pat for all she has done since coming to live in the parish of Kew whilst Alex Galbraith was in post as Vicar and since his death last year. I will cover the weekly Wednesday Holy Communion at 10am at St Francis, when I am not on holiday.

We congratulate Lord Street West on the 50th anniversary of the LEP forged between Lord Street URC and Trinity Duke Street Methodist on 1st September. There will be much to give thanks for over the years as the various traditions have been drawn on to help shape what they are as a church today, and though they face significant challenges with property issues and the funding for necessary works, we wish them every blessing of God's guidance as they face the future.

We hope to advertise the administrator post very soon and plan to also recruit someone to Line Manage our increasingly growing band of lay employees! This



Revd. Christopher Humble

should take some pressure off our ministers who have borne the burden of this role chiefly, though not exclusively.

Coming before the Circuit Meeting on 17 September will be the unanimous recommendations from the Circuit Invitation Committee for extensions to Ernie and Sheila's appointments in the Circuit until August 2029 and August 2030 respectively. Both of these extensions will be presented as open invitations. The Circuit Invitation Committee have also been working on plans for September 2027 and beyond in regard to stationing. We have submitted an application for a probationer to be stationed in the circuit based at Cornerstone. This will be a New People New Places project with exciting possibilities building on what is already in place as they look towards the possibility of a development of the site and a new build. There are no guarantees but watch this space. The district are supportive of the plan.

Earlier in the year seven of our nine churches in the Circuit voted to explore some form of "hubs". We will move on to the next phase of the process this Autumn as we begin to identify which churches might share some things they own in common with other brothers and sisters in Christ. We hope to be assisted by someone from outside the Circuit in this endeavour. We trust that a more streamlined structure for our governance might result. The objective is to help make us more missionally focused.

Please pray for all those who have responsibility for making decisions about the future direction of the Circuit.

With prayers and good wishes the new Methodist year.



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.

Houghton Weavers (management) Ltd Presents:

THE HOUGHTON WEAVERS

with Simon Brady on Guitar and Mandolin



Leyland Rd Church, Southport
Friday 18th September

Tickets £16



7.30pm Start (doors open 6.45pm)
Tel: Christine: 07808 271671

or in person from the venue:
Tel: (01704) 536648
(Mon - Thurs 9am-1pm)



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Messy CHURCH

At Lord Street West United Church, Southport

SATURDAY
19th September 2026
10.30am to 12.30pm

CRAFT ACTIVITIES **FUN** **FOOD** **WORSHIP**

for all the Family.....
.....and it's all free!!!!



SOUTHPORT METHODIST CIRCUIT

HELP FOR LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS SERVICES WORKSHOP

Feeling Overwhelmed by Local Services? **DON'T PANIC!** We're here to help.



DATE:
SATURDAY 19
SEPTEMBER



TIME:
10AM - 1PM



LOCATION:
LEYLAND RD METHODIST
CHURCH, PR9 9JQ

- PRACTICAL RESOURCE SHARE
- GROUP SUPPORT
- Q&A SESSION



LUNCH IS INCLUDED
TO BOOK A SEAT PLEASE CONTACT

admin@southportmethodist.org.uk

THE WORSHIPFUL, THE MAYOR OF SEFTON, COUNCILLOR JEN CORCORAN

INVITES YOU TO JOIN HER AND OTHER DIGNATORIES AT
ST PHILIP & ST PAUL WITH WESLEY

SUNDAY

6

AT 3 PM

SEPTEMBER

The Mayor of Sefton's Civic Sunday Service

The G:Force Gospel Choir and some of our school-children
will be taking part in this community celebration.

Refreshments will be served after the service in the St Paul's Hall

Please RSVP to stppw.office@gmail.com to give us an idea of numbers



*Sings of Love
and Praise*

An evening with David Massam and Friends for

Queenscourt
where life is for living...

Sunday 20th September 2026 at 6pm
Refreshments Available
St Philip and St Paul with Wesley Church, PR8 6QF
Tickets £10.00 from - 07743 495888 or
email dave.massam.ents@gmail.com



**PEARL OF AFRICA
CHILD CARE**

**THE PEARL OF AFRICA
CHILDREN'S CHOIR**

SAVE THE DATE
Tuesday 27 October 2026
Half-Term Family Fun!
Afternoon Family Workshop
& Evening Concert
at Leyland Rd Methodist Church



**SINGING SO
OUR FRIENDS
CAN GO TO
SCHOOL**



**Cornerstone
BRUNCH**

Saturday 12th September
10.30am - 1.00pm



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Contributions to: admin@southportmethodist.org.uk
Please put Circuit News in the subject title.

Dear Friends

Thank you so much for your good wishes upon my retirement from the active ministry as I become a Supernumerary Minister.



Thank you to all who were able to attend the Leaving Service, for all those who enabled the service to take place, whether upfront or behind the scenes, to make it a most memorable occasion. Thank you for your gifts, good wishes and thanks. For those sponsoring my Charity Retirement Bike Ride, unfortunately this has had to be postponed from 8th September to 5th May 2027 because the day after my leaving service I injured my back! For those who have already sponsored me I'll transfer your donations to the charities unless you advise me otherwise; I'll also promote the ride next spring for anyone else who would like to sponsor me.

Please be assured that I will continue to hold you all in my thoughts and prayers.

God bless
Patrick



We are looking for a Circuit Administrator

£16.20 per hour, 16 hours per week

The Methodist Church in Southport and Formby operates as a Circuit of eight churches. We have an exciting opportunity for a Circuit Administrator working as part of a team. We are seeking an enthusiastic person, who enjoys meeting people, is good at introducing, maintaining and improving systems, is creative and IT literate, and is keen to promote the Christian faith within our communities.

For an application pack please visit
<https://southportmethodist.org.uk/jobs>
or call Barry Stewart on 07919152006.

The application deadline is 14 th September 2026.

COME AND FILL A CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX FOR A CHILD IN UKRAINE



FREE ADMISSION • FREE REFRESHMENTS ALL DAY
(FREE BACON ROLLS 10:30am – 1:30pm)

SATURDAY 10th OCTOBER 10am to 4pm

Formby Methodist Church Hall, Elbow Lane

website: www.shoeboxexpress.org.uk e-mail: info@shoeboxexpress.org.uk

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