

CROSSENS AND MARSHSIDE ROAD

METHODIST CHURCHES PROFILE

(CORNERSTONE METHODIST CHURCH)



Crossens and Marshside Road Methodist Churches are part of the Southport Circuit in the Liverpool District. Southport is a seaside town with a population of around 90,000. Marshside and Crossens Churches are about a mile apart in the north of the town serving two distinct communities; each proud of their roots that predate the largely Victorian Southport.

The Southport Circuit is currently served by three presbyters and many active lay people involved in worship, pastoral care, outreach, social action and work with children and young people. The circuit mission statement 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'*.

The Circuit is currently exploring three missional hubs with Crossens/Marshside being the focus in the north of the town. Crossens Methodist Church is a small but active society which has made the courageous decision to close its building in September 2019 and join with Marshside Road to form a new society – Cornerstone Methodist Church. The premises are tired and no longer support the mission of the church and the new Cornerstone leadership team is exploring the possibility of redeveloping or rebuilding on the Marshside Road site.

We are looking for a Mission Enabler to help the two churches to come together as Cornerstone Methodist Church, to help us build strategic relationships with our community partners and so make our vision a reality. This is to be a vibrant, inclusive, safe church where everyone is valued, serving our community and sharing the love of Christ. A place where people are brought to faith and encouraged and supported in their faith journeys.

Crossens (Membership 16) currently runs an ecumenical lunch club twice a week and regularly hosts a fundraising brunch which is well supported by the local community. There is an active house group, ecumenical Bible study and a fortnightly fellowship group. There are ecumenical links with St John's Anglican Church.

Marshside Road (Membership 136) is a very busy church with the building well used. There is a weekly 'Thought for the Day' which has a regular attendance of 35-40 and a fortnightly bible study. There is a small Junior Church, the Boys' Brigade and Girls' Association, Parent and Toddler, monthly Messy Church and an annual holiday club in the summer. They are supporting a significant number of children and young people with additional needs and the church would like to explore how this could be developed in a sustainable way. The church premises are also used by a term time only pre-school and a dance class.

The vision of Cornerstone is to bring together the two congregations, establishing a new church which is outward looking and seeking to share God's love in the community.