

From your Superintendent....

Dear Friends

I wonder how many times you have sung Marty Haugen's hymn 'Let us build a house where love can dwell' (STF 409) with the chorus 'All are welcome, all are welcome in this place.' It's a great song and the hymn tries to be as inclusive as possible and we sing it with gusto, but hidden in verse 3 are the words 'in water, wine and wheat'. A coeliac friend who cannot eat wheat because it makes them very ill, pointed out the irony of these words in the hymn about welcome that excludes her.

I love this because it illustrates very powerfully that however hard we try to be an inclusive, welcoming church, the reality can so often allude us. It's not that we don't try, but we are all subject to unconscious bias, and we do not realise the negative impact of our words and behaviours on another person. We know that we are all made in God's image and are all equally precious to God and are committed to being a church which witnesses to this inclusive love of God, unconsciously, we tend to like people who look like us, think like us and come from backgrounds similar.

The Methodist Church is rolling out mandatory Equality, Diversity and Inclusion training for ministers, local preachers, circuit and church stewards, an encouragement for the Church to celebrate diversity, so it would be great if church council members, circuit meeting members and worship leaders would also take part. This will involve every Methodist being open to a change of heart, mind and actions, taking responsibility for recognising our own fears, prejudices, and negative or damaging perceptions and behaviours. We need to learn about our own power, and how to use it to enable and strengthen, rather than control or put down, others within the Body of Christ.

Can I commend to you the Methodist Online training platform <https://mcb.theologyx.com> to you where you can access the Unconscious Bias Training and the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion training.

Marie-Anne
Marie-Anne Kent,
Methodist Minister
Southport Methodist Circuit - 01704 513128

Southport Circuit Meeting

To be held on 20th March
at Cornerstone at 7.30pm.

SAFEGUARDING Creating Safer Space



Foundation Course
Saturday 20th May
starting at 9.30am
at

Ainsdale Methodist Church

(This course will be around 2.5/3 hours long)
To book into the Foundation training please book in with Jack Watson, CSO with your name, role, church email and phone number at the email or phone number below.

Safeguarding@southportmethodist.org.uk

or telephone 07444 101130

Any queries or questions
please do not hesitate to contact
Jack Watson

Exploring the Inner Life

Open
to all

A SHORT LENT COURSE

At the Victoria Centre, Sussex Road, Southport PR8 6DG

On Wednesdays 15th, 22nd & 29th March 2023 at 7.30pm



Lent is a good chance to take some time out. Here is an opportunity to examine your inner life a little more deeply. We hear a lot of confusing talk about meditation, contemplation, spirituality etc. These three evenings will cut through the confusion surrounding these big words to talk in plain English about the inner journey we must all take and how it can transform our lives.

Building on the work of Richard Rohr and others, we will cover the following topics:

- ♦ Spirituality that changes us from the inside out
- ♦ Using silence as a way of praying
- ♦ Learning to live less addicted to our thinking
- ♦ Contemplation as the energy behind social change

Each of the three sessions will be led in an informal manner with plenty of time for questions. We will also practice being silent.

These evenings are not for experts but for people who want to explore a new direction in their lives in a world that is getting increasingly complex and threatening.

This will be led by the Revd Graham Turner.

COMPASSION ACTS



SOUTHPORT
METHODIST CIRCUIT



At
Lord
Street
West

United Church

Southport
on **SATURDAY**

11th MARCH 2023

10.30am to 12.30pm

**Craft Activities; Fun; Food
& Worship
for all the Family.....**



Fairtrade
Coffee
Morning



Saturday 11th March
10am-12pm

Everyone welcome — entrance via the Side Door

First Friday of March

2023 World Day of Prayer

Taiwan

Service at Lord Street West
At 11.00am

Easter Vigil

On Holy Saturday vigil
at PPW at 7.30 pm

Starting outside around the fire,
before moving in side
for a time or quiet reflective prayer
in Taizé style

A time of waiting in hope
and expectation.

CIRCUIT EVENT

Bread Making

Ainsdale Methodist Church

Holy Saturday morning,

8th April at 10.00am

come and bake bread,

Hot Cross Buns or Easter People.

Everything is provided for you, so
whether you are a first time baker or
experienced, come and share in fun
and fellowship as we bake and reflect
together.

Places are limited, so please book by
email:

patrick.evans@methodist.org.uk or
TEXT OR PHONE: 07813 211501

Prayer Pointers

Mission Impossible - The Schools
Workers Trust explores the Easter
Mission Impossible - The Schools
Workers Trust explores the Easter
Story with Year 6 children from across
Southport from 14th March. For Tabz
and Hettie and the team of volunteers
and for the children as they engage
with the story.

Presbyteral Synod at Leyland Road on
21st March for all the

Cornerstone Brunch

25th March

10.30-1.00pm



Holy Week

We join together (virtually) for
Evening Prayer each night in
Holy Week (Monday—Friday)
at 7.00pm. Access via
Circuit Website.



Come and join us

at St Philip & St Paul with Wesley

Saturday 11th March

7-9pm

for a fantastic evening of music by the

Southport Salvation Army Brass Band
also featuring the Kids Choir

Tickets £8 including Refreshments and cake
(Free for children)

Contact stppw.office@gmail.com
for tickets & more information



Wednesday 8th March 2023



Come and join our

relaunched

Girls Brigade

to celebrate

International Women's Day
on 8th March

There will be a hot drink

and a slice of
something sweet

6.30pm to 7.30pm

Methodist Way of Life

'Rhythm of Life'

12th March at

Liverpool Road

at 6.30pm

What might this look
like for us?

2023 Ecumenical Study
Course & Discussion

'Digging Deeper'

First Wednesday of the month at

5th April

10.30am

Leyland Road - Church Lounge

Easter Theme

'Why have you forsaken me?'

The Revd Brian Trudgian

All Welcome

For further information
contact Stewart on 07801 031694