

From your Superintendent

I have just completed the Camino Frances – a 500 mile walk from St Jean Pied de Port to Santiago de Compostela and the shrine of St James. The 23rd of July is the Feast of St James. I know the Proclaimers sing ‘I will walk 500 miles and I will walk 500 more’, but I have no plans to walk ever again. Please remind me of that.



I spent most of the time being overtaken by people, and when I got to the top of a particularly steep hill, I am sure I heard gasps of amazement and maybe even a ripple of applause (I might have imagined that bit). Along the way I met those who had to drop out because of injuries and blisters, but I plodded on like some modern day version of the hare and the tortoise. In a world of busy-ness, in a very busy circuit, it was good to slow down and notice the beetle on the track, the wildflowers pulsating on the breeze and to hear the song of the robin.

I have recently been reminded that we have a God who walks at 3 miles an hour. It's the title of a book written in the 1960's by the theologian Kosuke Koyama. Koyama noticed that the average speed that human beings walk at is three miles per hour (note average!) Jesus, we know walked, a lot. At the beginning of his ministry Jesus left Nazareth and went to live in Capernaum which was a forty-mile journey. This is 13-14 hours of walking and would have been broken up into 2-3 days. Jesus, who is God, walked at three miles per hour. God, who is love, walks at three miles per hour. Love has a speed, Koyama says, and that speed is slow. That speed is gentle. That speed is tender.

When you begin to think about that, it challenges those who think that God is only interested in speed, productivity, and efficiency. Jesus, who created the universe, the God who throws the stars into the heavens, is a slow God — a God who takes time to love. When you begin to recognise God in this rather counter-cultural way, things begin to change.

At the end of the connexional year, as many of us take summer holidays, I want to say thank you to all of you across the circuit (lay and ordained) who have worked so hard once more this year. May we all learn to slow down and walk with God who longs to walk with us.

Marie-Anne
Marie-Anne Kent,
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THE Connexion

ISSUE 31 SUMMER 2023
Inspiring stories from the Methodist Church

When I arrived here in Southport as Circuit Administrator, I was surprised to find that the Circuit Office received 25 copies of each issue of *The Connexion*, which arrives four times a year. I have been made aware that individual churches within the Circuit also order their own copies of the magazine, leaving many copies unopened, which is a shame. The magazine aims to share stories of the Methodist people at work to challenge and inspire us. It is well worth a read to enable us to see God at work. If you haven't read it before, pick up a copy at church and pass it on to your friends.

Those of you that order *The Connexion* for your church, and may have realised not all the copies that arrive are taken advantage of, please promote it to your members, particularly any new members. Alternatively, it might be a good idea to take stock of how many copies you really need, and if it is more appropriate to reduce the order, then please do so. Go to: methodist.org.uk/theconnexion to change your order, or you can download the pdf version.

Methodist Prayer Handbook

Join the community around the Connexion, share the daily prayer and readings and discover the inspirational stories from around the world church.

You can order a copy (£4.50) through your church, or via Circuit Office, please contact me before the end of July via **Email: admin@southportmethodist.org.uk**

I will let you know when it arrives and you can pick it up at the Circuit Office and pay on the day.

BIBLE MONTH - 'REVELATION - A TEMPLATE FOR PRAISE'

6.30pm on Sunday 6th August
St. Philip and St. Paul with Wesley
(Chapters 1 - 3)

'The Church then and now'

6.30pm on Sunday 13th August
Lord Street West
(Chapters 4 - 5)

'The Triumph of the Lamb'

6.30pm on Sunday 20th August
Russell Road
(Chapters 10 - 13)

'Witness, Worship and Waiting'

6.30pm on Sunday 27th August
St. Francis of Assisi
(Chapters 17 - 22)
'Heading Home'

www.houghtonweavers.com

THE HOUGHTON WEAVERS

FRIDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER



Leyland Road Church, SOUTHPORT
 Tickets £15 Available From:
 www.wegotickets.com/event/561550
 Or from the venue Mon-Thurs 9am - 1pm)
 Tel: (01704)536 648

2023 Ecumenical Study Course and Discussion 'Digging Deeper'

First Wednesday of the month
 2nd August 2023
 at 10.30

At Leyland Road Church Lounge
 Coming to terms with
 Personal identity, self-esteem
 And our place
 in God's Kingdom Purposes
 Speaker

The Revd Sonya Marshall
 For further information
 contact Stewart on 07801 031694

Prayer Pointers

- ◆ Bescar Lane. and their move to St. Mark's, Scarisbrick
- ◆ Cornerstone, having decided to sell their site.
- ◆ Connell Court, MHA, Care Home which is to be sold.
- ◆ Welcoming Formby into Southport Circuit



You are Invited to the Liverpool District MWiB Summer Gathering

The Gathering will be held on
 Friday 18th August
 at West Kirby Methodist Church, Wirral,

The event begins with coffee/tea at
 11.30am and will finish at 3.00pm
 Bring your own packed lunch,
 (all drinks will be provided)

Our keynote speaker will be
The Revd Dr Christine Jones
 Christine is a former Minister in the
 District,
 prominent member of the Iona Commu-
 nity
 (and a guest at King Charles' Coronation)
 (no need to pre-book)
 There is room for everyone
 and EVERYONE will be welcome

Formby
 Methodist
 Church,
 Elbow Lane,
 Formby



We are delighted that Liverpool District Synod approved the transfer of Formby Methodist Church to the Southport Circuit. We look forward to welcoming them and enriching one another in God's work.

SAVE THE DATE: On Sunday 10th September at 6.30pm, we will welcome Formby Methodist Church into the Circuit with a Circuit Service at Elbow Lane, Formby.

Bescar Lane Methodist Church



After much soul searching, the Church Council of Bescar Lane have decided to close as a church and join with St. Mark's Church in Scarisbrick.

SAVE THE DATE:

The last Service at Bescar Lane will be held at 4.00pm

on Sunday
 17th September.

The Service will also be in celebration of the faithful Ministry of Bescar Lane In Scarisbrick for 100 years

Bereavement Journey Course

This Six week course
 Begins on
 14th September
 2.00 - 4.00pm
 at Leyland Road
 Methodist Church
 For more information
 Contact: Sally Eyes on
 sally.eyes@southportmethodist.org.uk
 Or telephone 07743 660155

Save the Date CASAI

Church Action on Sexual Abuse Issues
 CASAI is a faith based specialised ministry, working to support those especially, but not exclusively, hurt by the inherited church. This year, CASAI will celebrate its 21st Anniversary. A huge reason to celebrate and give thanks.

The Celebrations will take place on
 Saturday 4th November 2023
 From 1.00pm—4.00 'ish.
 Knitters are asked to knit hearts for the celebration.

If you would like to help in this way
 contact Gillian Downey
 admin@liverpoolmethodist.org.uk

ONE CHURCH

**Leyland Road Methodist Church
 on 30th July at 6.00pm**
 Join us to celebrate the community of Christians across Southport, and to hear what God is doing in these days. Let's worship, pray, listen together as we witness the unity Jesus called for in John 17:21.
 Southport Area Schools Worker Trust has a *Vision of Hope* for the coming year, as does HOPE Together.

**Early Morning
 Ecumenical Prayer Meeting**
 7.30am Tuesdays in July
 at Leyland Road Methodist Church.

7.30am Tuesdays in August at
 St Patrick's Church, Marshside
 It's a wonderful way to start the day

News and Events for September to
 admin@southportmethodist.org.uk