

*From Your
Superintendent*



Have you seen this year's John Lewis Christmas advert? It shows a boy out with his gran buying a seed from a second-hand sale believing it to be from a kit for 'planting a perfect Christmas tree'. However, the seed unexpectedly grows into a mischievous Venus Fly Trap named Snapper. We see a magical bond grow between the boy and Snapper, but his family aren't happy with this unusual Christmas tree and Snapper is relegated to the garden. Inspired by the boy's kindness, by the advert's end, Snapper has been lovingly absorbed into the family and their Christmas traditions. The message? 'Let your traditions grow'.

On the face of it a Venus flytrap disrupting Christmas is a rather unusual Christmas advert, it's not sentimental, cosy or sparkly, but Christmas always has been a tale of the unexpected. On the very first Christmas Day a heavenly host of angels frightened a

bunch of shepherds witless with their heavenly song about a child born to save the world. The shepherds searched for the child and found that he wasn't a king in a palace but a baby lying in an animal's feeding trough. There was nothing sentimental, cosy or sparkly about this Christmas Day.

The Methodist Church campaign – not quite so big budget as John Lewis – is called 'Out of the Ordinary'. In the film a pregnant woman wanders into a church on a dark night and discovers the transforming love of God. In both adverts we are being asked to look beyond the ordinary, beyond our traditions and open our hearts to the new and transformational. There is carol in Singing the Faith that says 'Beneath the paper wrapping, there's an open stable door, beneath the fir tree trappings, there a welcome and there's more. Beyond the tinsel fairy is a presence that's divine, there's a child to change the future, turning water into wine.....look inside, look below, look beyond, and you will know, the one who came to give his life for you and me.'

May we be open to look inside, look below, look beyond, to see what God is doing new, not just this Christmas, but each and every day and may we and his church be transformed by his love.

I wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas.

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



Circuit Christmas Eve Communion Service

(Virtual & In Person)

9.30pm at Ainsdale Methodist Church

Come and join us in person or online as we celebrate Holy Communion, in unity of spirit and time, as Christians in Bethlehem welcome Christmas Day (10pm in the UK is 12 midnight in Bethlehem)

You can join online at

<https://southportmethodist.org.uk/christmas/>

If joining online and wishing to share in Holy Communion, and in line with Methodist tradition, have prepared a small glass of non alcoholic grape based drink and a small piece of bread.

The Service will not be available to watch online after the live stream has finished.

CHRISTMAS EVE

Leyland Road: Carols in the Warm at 4.00pm
Formby: The Church Nativity at 4.30pm
PPW: Christingle at 4.00pm
PPW: Holy Communion at 09.30pm
St. Francis Kew: Holy Communion at 11.00pm
Lord Street West: Holy Communion at 11.30pm

Christmas Day Services around the Circuit

Ainsdale: 10.30am
Cornerstone: 10.30am
Formby: 10.30am
Leyland Road: 11.00am
Liverpool Road: 10.45am
Lord Street West: 10.30am
Russell Road at Leyland Road: 11.00am
PPW: 10.30am
St. Francis, Kew: 9.00am

DATE FOR THE DIARY

14th January 2024

Circuit Service at Liverpool Road at 4.00pm

Led by The Revd David Hardman

Methodist Liaison Officer in Jerusalem

A big thank you - £782.50 has been sent to 'Embrace' from Sunday's Circuit Service.

If you would still like to donate you can do this directly through this link

[Embrace the Middle East](#)

Cornerstone Methodist Church
Sunday 3rd December
3.00pm-5.00pm



Christingle



Children must be accompanied

ALSO

Crafts and food for all ages



CORNERSTONE BRUNCH

on
Saturday 2nd December
10.30AM—1.00PM

Stalls, books, cakes etc
and

COMMUNITY CAROLS

Tuesday 12th December
At 7.00pm

With the Cornerstone
Community Library and
Churchtown Primary
School Choir

Christmas readings
and carols

Followed by Mince pies

Formby Methodist Church
Elbow Lane, Formby

Christingle
on Saturday
9th December
at 4.30pm



On Christmas Eve
at 4.30pm
Join us for lots of fun for
the Nativity
Led by
The Revd Derek Bowker

Massam & Marshall

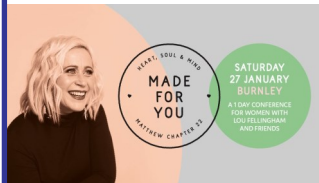
(in association with
Leyland Road
Methodist Church)

Annual Memorial Service

At Leyland Road
on Sunday
3rd December at 7.00pm



WOMEN'S CONFERENCE



MADE FOR
YOU
CONFERENCE
IN BURNLEY

Saturday 27th January 2024
09.00am—5.00pm

This day conference for
women of all ages is hosted
by

Lou Fellingham
and

Life Church Lancashire
Featuring worship and word
from Lou along with
special guests,
Philippa Hanna and
Taylor Blentiff



Christmas Concert

ROUNDELAY CHOIR
& MARSHSIDE BRASS BAND

7.30pm Monday 11th December 2023
at Southport Salvation Army
65 Shakespeare Street, Southport PR8 5AJ

Donations in aid of Queenscourt Hospice
and the Salvation Army Christmas Appeal

REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED

FREE
entry



Octave Choir Marshside Brass Band

Saturday 9th December 7pm
St Johns Church Ainsdale
In aid of Queenscourt Hospice

Licensed Bar
Tickets From Church £7
Mob: 07798 707231
or email:

suehughes23@yahoo.co.uk

Queenscourt
Registered Charity No:518801



Community Carol Concert

Thursday 21st December at 7pm

Leyland Road Methodist Church

Come and experience a joyful
celebration of the Christmas
story followed by refreshments.
Everyone welcome.

For further information please call 07801031694

AGLOW INTERNATIONAL

Candlelight Ladies Group

Invite you to an evening of
Praise, Worship and Testimony

At Leyland Road Methodist Church
Coffee Lounge

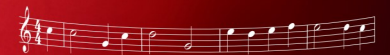
On Monday 11th December 2023
At 7pm

Guest speaker is VERNON FULLER
Bring a friend and be blessed

Churches Together in Ainsdale

invites the Southport Methodist Circuit to

Carols Around The Tree



Sunday 10th December at 6pm
at Ainsdale Methodist Church

Join us for a nostalgic light hearted time of carol singing,
Christmas readings, reflections and sketches.



Refreshments served from 5pm onwards.
Christmas jumpers especially welcome.