

From Alex Galbraith..... 'A joyful and eternal future'

When Mary Magdalene went to the tomb early in the morning of the first day of the week, she saw Jesus through her tears. In the uncertain light of dawn and with the water in her eyes, she did not recognize him. It was not surprising. The light was dim, her eyes were wet and she was not expecting to see him.

It often feels like that with us. With all the horrible things going on in the world; and closer to home: churches closing or changing, fewer people worshipping, lay people and ministers struggling, and illness and difficulties with relationships, and old age and bereavement, the light of the present and the future does seem uncertain, and we shed tears, sometimes inwardly, but sometimes real tears from our eyes.

We find it hard to recognize Jesus or to receive his comfort and help. It was when he spoke to her, when he said her name, that Mary Magdalene knew him and her tears of sorrow became tears of joy. When we hear the word of god in our prayers, in our worship or in the bible, when we receive the love and support of fellow Christians, the dim light grows brighter, and our expectations of Jesus, our trust in him, our recognition of him, grows less uncertain. As we celebrate Easter, we can have confidence in him for a joyful and eternal future, even though we now see him often through our tears.

27 years ago this month, I was Recognized and Regarded as a Methodist minister for the first time; more recently I have been authorized to serve as a Methodist Minister. I have loved this time, particularly taking services in the different churches in the circuit, meeting you, being welcomed by you and worshipping with you. I have had some good colleagues, Marie-Anne best of all. Thank you so much for your love and fellowship, which have meant a great deal to me.

Many of you will know that I have terminal cancer and I appreciate your prayers. I may be close to the end of my time as a Methodist Minister, but I am not quite finished yet.

God bless you all.

Alex



The Revd Alex Galbraith
St. Francis of Assisi, Kew

Circuit Service

Service of Welcome
for
The Revd Patrick Evans
and
The Commissioning of Nigel Mawdsley,
as Outreach & Pastoral Worker
at 6.30pm,
on Sunday 14th April 2024,
at
Lord Street West United Church

Following the retirement of the Rev Peter Lyth from the United Reform Church, the pastoral oversight of Lord Street West United Church reverts to the Methodist Church.

The service welcomes Patrick as Minister and commissions Nigel in his extended role as Outreach and Pastoral Worker at the church.

We are delighted
To announce that
the preacher will be
The Revd Geoff Felton,
Moderator of the Mersey Synod
of the United Reformed Church.



**At Leyland Road Methodist Church
on Sunday 28th April**

at 6.00pm

**when we lift our thoughts, prayers, our
voices and concerns to God**

**in worship and fellowship
ALL WELCOME**

**Final Synod of the
Liverpool Methodist District
chaired by the Revd Dr Sheryl Anderson
at Ainsdale Methodist Church
Saturday 27th April 2024
9.15am for 9.45am start
SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING
For the life of the
LIVERPOOL METHODIST DISTRICT
at 2.00pm**



As a Circuit we are proud to host the final Synod of the Liverpool Methodist District, before all the North West Districts are amalgamated into the new North West Methodist District from 1st September 2024. This will also be Sheryl's last Synod as Chair of District. Anyone is welcome to attend the Synod and/or the Celebration Service that will be held in the Church Hall at Ainsdale.

Volunteers are sought to act as Welcomers and to serve Tea/Coffee Refreshments. Donations of cake would be especially welcomed which will be served during the breaks throughout the day.

(if staying over the lunch period please bring your own lunch).

Please can volunteers contact Margaret in the Circuit Office at admin@southportmethodist.org.uk or Telephone 01704 264775



Formby Methodist Church
Elbow Lane

150th Anniversary

Commemorative Events at Elbow Lane during 2024

**Sunday 31st March
at 10.30**
Easter Sunday Celebration Service
The Revd Dr Sheryl Anderson
Chair of Liverpool District
—oooOooo—
Friday 12th April at 7.30pm
'Magic and Mayhem'
The Gilbert & Sullivan Story'
The Aughton Players, Southport
Tickets £8.00

**No One's A Stranger Twice
150 Years of Methodism
In the Formby Community
By Local Author Alastair Gillies**

"It was not until I had the privilege of reading this carefully researched and thoughtfully written book, beautifully illustrated, that I came to realise the breadth and depth of the history of Formby Methodist Church within the Formby community. Enjoy!

You are in for a treat."
(Revd Dr Sheryl Anderson
Chair of Liverpool District)

Copies still available
At Derbyshire's, Chapel Street,
Formby Methodist Church, Elbow Lane
£10 plus (£2.50 p&p)



and Southport Circuit Office
Tel: 01704 264775 or email
margaret@southportmethodist.org.uk

Coffee Morning & Plant Sale

Saturday 6th April 10.00am-12.30pm
Ainsdale Methodist Church
A coffee morning and plant sale will be held on Saturday 6th April to raise funds towards the church redevelopment and the gardening club to maintain the church gardens.
Come along enjoy some coffee and cake, have a chat and look around the garden now spring is here.

Cornerstone BRUNCH

On Saturday 6th April
From
10.30 - 1.00pm



**2024 Ecumenical Study Course
& Discussion**
Digging Deeper
A Journey through the Psalms
First Wednesday of the month
10.30-11.30am
(coffee from 10.00am)
Leyland Road Church Lounge
For further information contact
Stuart on 07801 031694
3rd April 2024
Psalm 8
Speaker: Fr Chris Thomas

Southport Friends of Palestine

**CEASEFIRE
NOW!!!**

**APRIL
6TH**

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM



IN FRONT OF THE ATKINSON THEATRE
ON LORD STREET IN SOUTHPORT

BRING FLAGS AND BANNERS

Cookery Classes For beginners

Next Course dates are
Monday 8th, 15th & 29th April,
1.30 - 3.30pm
At Leyland Road Church
Come and learn how to cook
low-cost, nutritious meals.
No charge and support given for
ingredients and kitchen equipment.
Contact Janet Trencher 07968 080195
or email
janetmramsdale09@gmail.com