

## A message of hope and renewal from the Revd Peter Lyth.....

Almost as soon as Christmas was over and definitely before New Year's Day, our local paper shop had new stocks of Cadbury's Crème eggs. Many of you will know that I have a particular weakness for chocolate and it has been a test of willpower for me to resist them.

So far, I have been successful! But in the shops, there has been a constant reminder that Easter is coming, despite a lack of mention of Jesus, the true reason that we celebrate the festival. This year, Easter is early, meaning that Easter Sunday is in March, albeit the very last day. To me, the message of Easter has a particular resonance this year.

Easter Sunday is my final day as a serving minister in the United Reformed Church. But what has the message of Easter have to say to the churches? It's hard to escape the sense that something is changing. In recent times, three of the churches in the circuit have closed, as has one of the United Reformed churches in Southport. Others are hanging on to a precarious existence and, I think it is fair to say that many church members are fearful. But the message of Easter is, above all a message of renewal and hope.

Maybe God has something new in store for us. A constant theme of the gospels is the death of the old and the birth of the new. In a recent lectionary reading, Jesus said, "whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it" (Mark 8:35). It reminds us that sometimes we have to let go of the old so that God can do something new. This may be very different to that which we are used to – the early disciples failed to recognise the risen Jesus when he first appeared.

But I am convinced that God has a plan for His people. Let us pray that we can be people of the resurrection – renewed in the form that God wants us to be. But I hope that we can continue to have Crème Eggs too!  
Peter Lyth

**The Revd Peter Lyth Circuit Leaving Service  
on Sunday 3rd March at 6.30pm  
at Lord Street West  
United Church**

**The Hesketh Bank Silver Band  
will be leading our worship  
Peter has been a great friend  
to the Southport Circuit  
and will be very much missed.  
Please come and join us to wish Peter well.**



## Gaza Appeal

The Methodist Church in Britain has launched an appeal to support the emergency work being carried out in Gaza by the Methodist Liaison Office's partners.

Donation is through the Methodist Church World Mission Fund, via JustGiving - **please add 'GAZA APPEAL' at the end of the online form** where you can leave a message.

*"The scale of the destruction and tragic loss of life in so short a space of time is incomparable to any other conflict in recent times. We grieve for all lives lost on October 7 and in the subsequent fighting. There is no justification for such widespread killing of tens of thousands of innocent people and we are gravely concerned for the entire population of the Gaza strip."*

Methodist Liaison Office (MLO) supports several partners in the region, many of whom have had to adapt the support they offer in light of the Israeli Defense Forces' military campaign.

The Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees (DSPR) which is part of the Near East Council of Churches (NECC) and the Jerusalem Princess Basma Centre which had just opened a clinic in Gaza when the violence started, are working in the most difficult of circumstances.

The DSPR-NECC says the situation in Gaza is a disaster beyond belief and the impact on people is catastrophic. They are working with some of the most vulnerable civilians and in central and south Gaza their clinic is one of only four centres that continues to operate: they are able to see around 500 people a day.

Their mental health support has reached over 5000 children aged between five and nine through open days and other activities in different shelters and schools.

[Donate to the Gaza Appeal here](#)

**Rachel Lampard**

**Past Vice-President of Conference  
Second Zoom Session  
for Liverpool District**

**Topic: Becoming a Justice Seeking Church  
will be held on**

**Monday 18th March 2024  
between 7.00pm and 9.00pm.**

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://zoom.us/j/99510019385?  
pwd=OUU1SmZqdU5xbUgvZ2x6WEsxOEpMZZ09](https://zoom.us/j/99510019385?pwd=OUU1SmZqdU5xbUgvZ2x6WEsxOEpMZZ09)

Meeting ID: 995 1001 9385  
Passcode: 201504

**Please use this link to the Circuit Website for  
more details [https://  
southportmethodist.churchsuite.com/  
events/q6fquswe](https://southportmethodist.churchsuite.com/events/q6fquswe)**

ST LUKE'S HOYLAKE  
A Family of Faith

# AN EVENING WITH THE PRESIDENT OF CONFERENCE



**Rev. Gill Newton**

JOIN US AS WE WELCOME  
THE PRESIDENT OF THE METHODIST CONFERENCE,  
REV GILL NEWTON.

GILL WILL SPEAK TO US AND SHARE IN CONVERSATION  
WITH REV DR SHERYL ANDERSON, CHAIR OF THE  
LIVERPOOL DISTRICT

**16** March 2024 **6:30PM**

**AT ST LUKE'S HOYLAKE**  
19 MARKET ST, HOYLAKE,  
WIRRAL CH47 2BF  
STLUKESHOYLAKE.COM

The Methodist Church  
Liverpool District

## 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  
6th March 2024  
Psalm 51  
Speaker: Bishop Tony Porter



Formby Methodist Church  
Elbow Lane

## 150th Anniversary

Commemorative Events at  
Elbow Lane during 2024

**Thursday 7th March at 7.30pm**  
**Two Formby Artists**  
An illustrated talk by  
John Rimmer & Stephen Gerrard

**Thursday 19th March at 7.30pm**  
**G:Force Gospel Choir, Formby**

**Sunday 31st March**  
**Easter Sunday Celebration Service**  
The Revd Dr Sheryl Anderson  
Chair of Liverpool District

**Dates for your Diary**  
**Friday 12th April at 7.30pm**  
**'Magic and Mayhem'**  
**The Gilbert & Sullivan Story'**  
The Aughton Players, Southport  
Tickets £8.00

**Friday 10th May at 7.30pm**  
**Prof Ian Tracey**  
(Liverpool Anglican Cathedral Organist)  
with Jack Watson (Tenor)

## Southport Circuit Meeting to be held on Thursday 14th March at 7.30pm at Ainsdale Methodist Church

Agenda and papers will be in your  
inbox when you read this.  
A few papers of necessity will be  
circulated next week.  
It is hoped that as many members as  
possible will be able to attend the first  
Circuit Meeting of 2024



## RAISING PRAISE RAISING

**At Leyland Road Methodist  
Church**  
on Sunday  
24th March 6.00pm

when we lift our thoughts,  
prayers, our voices  
and concerns to God in wor-  
ship and fellowship  
**ALL WELCOME**

## Circuit Lent Bible Study

7.30pm-9.00pm in the New Room at  
Liverpool Road Methodist Church

All are welcome to any of the  
forthcoming Sessions

**Tuesday 5th March**  
Vision of Judgements & Justice  
led by Local Preacher Colin Fyles

**Tuesday 12th March**  
Hope for a better world  
led by Revd Patrick Evans

**Tuesday 19th March**  
Easter Praise  
led by Local Preacher Brian Simmons

## Online Safeguarding Foundation Training

**Wednesday 27th March  
at 6.30pm**

To book on to this Training  
Course, please contact our CSO,  
Jack Watson, and let him have  
your Name, Church,  
Your role in the Church,  
your Email address and  
telephone number.  
Either by email to  
[safeguarding@southportmethodist.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@southportmethodist.org.uk)  
Or telephone on  
07444 101130

## Amy's Swag Coffee Morning

**Saturday 9th  
March  
10am-12pm  
Leyland  
Road Church  
Coffee**




## 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)



Available from 3rd March 2024  
At Derbyshire's, Chapel Street, Liverpool  
Formby Methodist Church, Elbow Lane  
£10 plus (£2.50 p&p)  
and Southport Circuit Office  
Tel: 01704 264775 or  
margaret@southportmethodist.org.uk