



Rev. Christopher Humble
Circuit Superintendent

November is a month marked by remembering. It begins with All Saints and All Souls Days and moves swiftly to Remembrance Sunday. It gives us opportunities to reflect deeply on the fellowship we enjoy with those who have gone before us, who have been examples to us and inspired us by their lives. When I began my ministry 35 years ago we were still burying very elderly First World War veterans who fought in cavalry regiments on the battlefields of France and Belgium, men who had fought with horses and artillery on the battlefields. The threats by dictators and power-hungry oppressors is still prevalent in our world today. My son serves in the Royal Corps of Signals and spent some time training recently with other European forces in Estonia observing what the Russians were doing. As he did so I could not help but think that over 70 years ago this is exactly what my dad was doing in a different way, during his period of National Service serving with the East Yorkshire Regiment of the British Army in Graz, Austria, at the border with Czechoslovakia (as it was then); both in very different ways with unbelievably different kit but at the NATO border of the Western world. Personalities change but the issues seem not to have changed much in all that time.

We live in a fractured world and the Church of God must continue to play its part in this work of standing for justice, freedom, peace and the healing of all that divides us. Recently King Charles made a State visit to the Vatican and prayed with Pope Leo in a public service; King Charles as Supreme Governor of the Church of England and Pope Leo as leader of the RC Church. The distrust between these two ecclesial communities goes back a long way, nearly five hundred years to 1534 when Henry VIII broke with Rome. Of course, there are many issues that still divide (eg the place of women in ordained ministry and views about same-sex marriage) but since the 1960's we have fared better at working together generally between the denominations in

an ecumenical spirit. Praying together seemed not to provoke a lot of negative reaction as the idea did when it was first mooted and shelved some years ago. That, in itself, is a sign of the progress that has been made. Behind the scenes years of painstaking ecumenical engagement has been at work. We celebrate diversity whilst not expecting uniformity nowadays. Talking of ecumenism, 22 years ago this week, in the presence of HM Queen Elizabeth II, representatives of the Methodist Church and Church of England signed an Anglican-Methodist Covenant seeking fuller visible and organic unity and the removal of all remaining obstacles. What this has meant in practice remains debatable, it feels more an aspiration rather than a rich harvest of progress has been manifest. Each denomination tends to largely do its own thing. We tend to make our own decisions, as if we lived in a vacuum. However, the word ecumenical means "the whole inhabited earth" and this reminds us that the agenda is large and wide, not small and narrow. Christian unity is but a sign of God's desire for unity amongst all peoples of the world. We also rejoice at the peace in the Middle East but we need to keep praying that the peace will hold. Meanwhile in domestic politics the issues of immigration keep coming to the fore. Our own people seem to hold varying views of what being British means.

Hebrews chapter 12 speaks of being "surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses", these are those who have gone before us on the journey of faith and those who surround us now by their prayers and fellowship who encourage us in our discipleship. In coming

The Mission of the Southport Methodist Circuit is to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ by inspiring, encouraging, resourcing and enabling the people and churches of the Circuit to serve and transform their communities and the wider world.

days we will see lights going up around the town and in the windows of people's homes. As the lights go up may we seek to shine as lights in the darkness as followers of Jesus Christ, the light of the world.

With all good wishes for the month of November,

Chris Humble
Rev. Christopher Humble
Southport Circuit Superintendant

Major Richard Percival Heywood MC



Formby's Unknown Hero

On Thursday 6th November at 7.30pm, just before Remembrance Sunday, Alastair will be giving an illustrated talk in the Maple Leaf Room to Formby Civic Society on Major Richard Percival Heywood. This, however, will be an open meeting - you do not have to be a FCS member to attend - so everyone will be very welcome.

Richard Heywood was a fascinating character - during World War I, he was promoted from Private to Major and won the Military Cross with 2 Bars - two amazing feats. And he was an outstanding rugby player - not only did he captain Waterloo but also Lancashire, and had it not been for the War, he would almost certainly have been capped for England.

AND - not only did he live in Formby, but he was a member and Steward here at Elbow Lane! Yet few people have even heard of him! So do come along and hear more about this amazing man!



An uplifting evening of Celtic Christian music
Sun 23 Nov 2025
6:30 pm - 9:00 pm

Tickets



Buddies Ukulele Concert and Dance

Saturday 6th December 2pm
Cornerstone Methodist Church Hall

£10 per person



Methodist Women in Britain
Equipping, Encouraging & Enabling

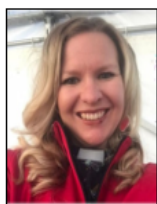
You are invited to our

Liverpool+ area

Autumn Gathering

****Monday, 3rd November 2025****

A time for worship, fellowship & sharing news from near & far.
Newsround, update on our Project Charities,
Input from Youth Conference 3GEN 2025 and
Kathy Galloway (Former Leader of the Iona Community)



Guest speaker
The Rev'd Nicola Langton-Miller
(Methodist minister, Chester & Stoke District)

**'EQUIPPED
FOR THE JOURNEY'**

11.00am Drinks on arrival - 11.15am start - 3.15pm Conclusion
Please bring a packed lunch (Drinks will be provided)

Moreton Methodist Church
Pasture Rd, Moreton Wirral CH46 7TQ

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FRIDAY 5TH DECEMBER 2025

Doors 6.45pm/7.30pm start! Refreshments available

Tickets £15 on 01704 536648 (Mon/Tues 9-1 Weds Thurs 9-3)
(or SCAN QR CODE ABOVE)
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Charity
COFFEE AFTERNOON

Saturday 6th December
2.30 to 5.00pm

Liverpool Road Methodist
Church Sandon
Road Birkdale

Admission £2 inc
Tea/Coffee & Biscuits

Cake Stall
Bottle Tombola
Book Stall
Craft Stall

Proceeds to Compassion Acts



 **NORTH WEST ENGLAND
METHODIST DISTRICT**

**District
Online
Worship**

Sunday 9th November at 6.30pm

**Remembrance
Sunday**

District Online Worship is held on the second Sunday of every month. For the Zoom code (which remains the same), please email prayer@nwedmethodists.org.uk or direct message us on Facebook



**FORMBY CHRISTMAS
CRAFT FAIR**
29TH NOVEMBER
10AM – 3PM.
RAFFLE, TOMBOLA, CAKES

Christmas Brunch - Cornerstone



There will be a Christmas Brunch on Saturday
29th November from 10.30 am to 1 pm.



Advent Messy Church - Cornerstone

We are holding an Advent Messy Church on
Sunday 30th November. Please keep the date
free. Time to be confirmed, but it will be in the
morning. There will be crafts to do, and lots of
fun to enjoy. This is open to all ages. All wel-
come.



**CHRISTMAS CARD
COMPETITION**



 **NORTH WEST ENGLAND
METHODIST DISTRICT**

